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MIG

Humphreys



On Stone by F. Bauer.

H. Woods & Co. lith.

3240



The

Gold, Silver, and Copper

Coins of England,

Exhibited in a series of fac-similes of the most interesting coins of each successive period; printed in gold, silver, and copper, accompanied by a sketch of the progress of the English coinage from the earliest period to the present time.

By Henry Noel Humphreys.

SIXTH EDITION.

LONDON:
H. G. BOHN, YORK STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

MDCCCXLIX.



LONDON:

VIZETELLY AND CO., PRINTERS AND ENGRAVERS,

PETERBOROUGH COURT FLEET STREET.

Preface.



IN OFFERING the present work on English Coins to the world, being myself merely one of the uninitiated public, totally unknown among Numismatists and general Antiquarians, I feel it necessary to make some apology for its obtrusion, when so many excellent works on the subject already exist.

Wishing to make myself acquainted with English Coins, the series of which is so intimately connected with the general history and progress of the country, of which they form such interesting and authentic monuments, I found it of course necessary to procure the best works on the subject. I first purchased Mr. Hawkins's excellent and elaborate work on "English Silver Coins," price £1 1s., the plates of which, however, do not extend beyond the reign of Charles I.; and the gold coinage, respecting which I was most interested, is of course not alluded to, not coming within the intended scope of that work. To supply this deficiency, I purchased (second-hand) the work of Martin Folkes, continued by the Society of Antiquaries, for £2 10s. It treats

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Numas, or Ptolemys for their presidents and chairmen, instead of Thompsons, Johnsons, or Smiths.

The exact sciences have even received some positive aid from the study of coins; astronomy acquires evidence from the device on a coin of Augustus Cæsar, of the appearance of a great comet at a certain precise period. It is the one supposed at the time to presage the death of the emperor. This period exactly corresponds with the calculated time for an appearance of Halley's great comet, the second previous to the one observed by Halley himself; thus affording most interesting evidence of the correctness of the observations that had determined its orbit and the period of its returns. Suetonius, it is true, also mentions the appearance of the comet, but the coin is a great additional evidence. Indeed, the ackowledgment of the importance of the numismatic science has become so general among the learned of all classes, that a professor of another science, the one which has laid bare the early history of the earth itself before its habitation by man, has taken advantage of the high historical interest of coins, to call fossils the "*medals* of creation;" as doing for the story of the solid globe itself, that which coins have done for the story of its subsequent inhabitant, man. Numismatists might have retaliated, by calling coins the "*fossils* of history;" but a learned medallist has thought fit to take his revenge more largely, with what benefit I leave to my readers to assess. He says, "Nature herself would almost appear to have intended numismatists should become the honourable of the earth; for she has pointed out to mankind the very shapes and sizes to which coins should be fashioned, by the formation of a class of fossils, called by geologists *nummulina*, or nummulites," from their resemblance to pieces of money. The fossils alluded to are round and flat; those of the superficial size of a sovereign being about twice its thickness; others in like proportion, varying from about the size of a crown to the most microscopic dimensions. They occupy an important place among fossil shells, on account of the prodigious extent to which they are accumulated in some of the secondary and tertiary formations.

I must, however, now cite one other case more to the point—one of a lost history just revealed through the medium of recently discovered coins. This, the last instance I shall refer to, is that of

the series of Græco-Bactrian and Græco-Indian coins. It is well known that after the death of Alexander the Great, his powerful lieutenants partitioned his empire, each erecting an independent sovereignty; and of those established in North Western India, a list of about eight of the names of the more immediate successors of Alexander has been preserved; but which, aided by the discovery of the coins in question, has been now extended to not less than twenty, followed by the coins of their barbarous successors—forming a series from the 3rd century before to the 12th century after the Christian era, and offering incontrovertible dates, names, and landmarks, from which we may hope to see a complete history arise in the place of a vast and dreary blank: in addition to which, a lost language appears likely to be recovered through the medium of the bilingual inscriptions upon one series of these remarkable relics.

For the recovery of these invaluable historical records we are principally indebted to our conquests in India, and to our countrymen there established, but especially to the industry and acquirements of the late lamented Sir Alexander Burnes, although some had already reached Europe through the French General Allard, in the service of Runjeet Singh.* Such are some of the results of European conquests in semi-barbarous countries of the ancient world. Great discoveries may follow our more free intercourse with China; and the occupation of Northern Africa by the French, will doubtless, when complete, lead to many valuable and unexpected discoveries.

Having attempted to exhibit a few of the important results to be expected from the study of coins, I may proceed to give a brief, very brief sketch, or rather summary of a sketch, of their earliest origin as far as is known, and their gradual progress to about the time of Julius Cæsar, when the history of British coins may be said to begin.

* The best information on this interesting subject is to be found in Professor Wilson's Memoir, and in the earlier notices of Messrs. Princeps and Masson.



The earliest money transaction on record is that in which it is related that Abraham weighed to Ephron "four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant," in payment for the field of Machpelah. These are supposed to have been mere lumps of silver, without any impress or mark, which passed by weight only, as the term shekel (which eventually became the name of positive coins of gold and silver), from shakal, to weigh, fully implies. The denomination for money used in the book of Job is not, however, *shekel*, but "*kesitah*," a lamb; perhaps from the image of that animal having been stamped on the shekel, or weighed piece, alluded to, which, though at first without mark, may afterwards have been stamped with the symbol of that barter in cattle for which it was the first more convenient substitute. There is also a supposition that kesitah, though translated a piece of money in our version, may possibly have been actually a lamb, for ear-rings are mentioned in the same payment, which were, doubtless, the early ring money I shall afterwards allude to. The shekel of the age of Jacob appears to have been succeeded by the *shekel ha-kodesh*, or shekel of the sanctuary, of which the standard remained in the custody of the priests, and from which it is probable that all *images* were rejected, so that it became again, even if it had ever been marked with some impress, the simple shekel, or weighed piece. It would appear, however, that as commerce increased from the time of Abraham to that of Micah, who lived, by the ordinary computations, about 1500 B.C., that commercial wants had increased in number, and that the pieces of silver used in trade had augmented in number and diminished in size; for a transaction of Micah with his mother, has reference to a sum of ONE THOUSAND pieces of silver. Similar sums of 1000 pieces of silver are mentioned three centuries later in the transaction of the five lords of the Philistines and Delilah; and that they were small pieces, is proved, as the lords are stated to have brought the money in their hands—probably in sealed bags, as represented in Egyptian paintings. The Jews certainly never adopted positive coins till long after their use in neighbouring countries. Other means of barter were, however, early in use in the East, such as RING MONEY,

similar to the iron ring money of the early Celtic nations, of which specimens have been discovered in Ireland. The gold and silver ring money of the East appears to have been formed of wire, bent into a circle, but not fastened, so that it could with ease be made into a chain, from which portions could be detached at pleasure. "We have," (says Mr. Bonomi, in an interesting Memoir) "the actual representation of this currency among the ancient Ethiopians and Egyptians in hieroglyphic sculptures and paintings, in which it is not uncommon to see men weighing rings, and a scribe taking note of their number and value—the gold rings being painted yellow, and the silver white, with the hieroglyphics of those metals occasionally engraved or painted near them. The hieroglyphic representative of gold is the crucible, and the crucible crossed by a leek, the symbol of white, represents silver." Similar rings are still current in Nubia, and Mr. Bonomi was enabled to procure some specimens from a Jelab, or slave merchant, which he has presented to the Numismatic Society; they varied from the 16th to 3-16ths of an inch in thickness, and in diameter, the longest way, from 2½ to 3 inches; the rings of silver were larger, and some of them, which had been worn as bracelets, were ingeniously ornamented with engraved work. The paintings above alluded to also represent sealed bags, containing possibly a number of rings, equal to a certain weight—very likely a talent; the pieces contained in such bags may have been of some other form: but at all events, their aggregate weight was most probably a talent, as would appear by the history of the bags of silver given by Naaman to Gehazi (2 Kings, v. 23), each of which contained a talent, and was, together with a change of raiment, enough for one man to carry. Other modes of barter, by a sort of money, existed—engraved stones, such as the Egyptian scarabeus: and pieces of cloth, or slices of salt, of a certain estimated value, are still the money of some parts of Northern Africa; doubtless, the remnant of patriarchal times and customs. The first species of money that was circulated by tale and not by weight, of which we have any account, consisted of *spikes*, or small obelisks of brass or iron; six of those being as many as the hand could grasp: and names derived from this rude money, the words *obolus* and *drachma*, signifying spike and handful, continued long after the invention of positive coins to be the names of two

well-known pieces of money, one of which was worth six of the other. *



To the Greeks, however—the fathers of so many of the great features of civilization—it appears we must attribute the first invention of *positive coins* as money. Some have attributed an earlier date to the Persian Darics of gold and silver (coins nearly equivalent to our modern guineas and shillings): some give precedence to the Phœnician coins of their colony at Malta, and others even to the first brass money of Italy.

But in neither of these cases do we find a *gradual* development of the art of coining, from the simple stamping of the lump or button on one side only, through all its phases, to that of perfect coin; while the coins of Greece, on the contrary, exhibit the whole and gradual progress of the art. In all the instances referred to, perfect coins only, though in the Maltese case exceedingly rude, have been found, serving to prove that the art was received by them in its already perfected state. According to the Parian Chronicle, a record of the third century B.C., Phidon, king of Argos, in order to facilitate commerce, stamped silver money in the island of Ægina in the year B.C. 895. Now, as Homer lived immediately *prior* to this epoch, and makes no mention of coined money, whilst he does mention the system of barter, we may infer that it was unknown in his time, for it is impossible to imagine a writer by whom no art or science has been overlooked, to have thus passed over so useful an invention as stamped coin, had it existed. In the time of Lycurgus, which followed that of Homer—certainly not later than a century, though there is some difficulty in ascertaining a more positive date at present—it is equally certain that gold and silver coins as money existed in Greece, as proved by his law prohibiting their use in Sparta, and substituting iron; probably rings, similar to the Celtic ring money before mentioned. This brings the introduction of *coins* between the epochs of Homer and Lycurgus—in fact, to the precise

* Drachma is still the name of coin in use in Greece at the present day.

period assigned to the invention of Phidon; and the coins of Ægina, from the rudeness of their devices and imperfection of their execution, may fairly be supposed to be of the age in question. This, compared with the assertion of the Parian Chronicle, the silence of Homer, and the law of Lycurgus, seem fairly to authenticate the claim of Phidon, and to establish the origin of the first coined money as having occurred nearly 900 years before the Christian era, in the island of Ægina.*

The act of impressing a seal or signet was an understood sign of solemn compact from the earliest periods, and engraved seals were very early in use;† and from this circumstance was probably derived the idea of stamping or sealing a lump of silver, as a guarantee that it was of a certain weight, upon the faith of which stamp it passed as such. It is in this form that the first coins appear. The symbols with which they were first stamped were nearly always of a religious character, possibly to add additional weight and sacredness to the fact of such sealing or stamping; and these symbols, or images of gods, it has been observed, may possibly account for their being placed in tombs with vases and other sacred symbols, from which custom many fine specimens have been preserved to us. Lucian has supposed they were so placed for paying the passage of the dead over the Styx. The fiction of Charon, however, is of more recent date than many of the tombs in which coins have been found. Coins were, as I have explained, at first stamped only on one side; but eventually, by degrees, we find the art of stamping both sides discovered. No portraits occur on any coins previous to the Egyptian and Syrian dynasties of Macedonian princes, whom the flattery of their subjects had raised to divine honours; previously to which the nearest approach to portrait was obtained by representing a Jupiter, or other deity, in the features of the sovereign to be flattered. The Greek colonies of Sicily and Italy eventually surpassed the mother country in the beauty of their coins, of which many exquisite specimens are to be found in collections, among which the noble coins of Syracuse may be especially distinguished. As regards the question, whether the coin called the Persian Daric is more ancient

* Numismatic Journal, vol. ii. † Ibid.

than the first Greek coins, the answer is this. After the Persian subjugation of Asia Minor the Greek coinage of the maritime provinces was impressed by the Persian symbol of the archer drawing his bow; but though the coinage of those states received the royal stamp of Persia, it retained its Greek standard weight and value, and did not extend itself beyond the provinces of Asia Minor, proving that the Persians themselves had no coinage of their own, and only adopted that of the conquered states for the use of those states themselves: thus the Persian Daric is evidently a result of the Greek coinage, and not a Persian coin, older than those of Greece, as was once supposed. The Daric question proves only that some of the Greeks of Asia Minor, perhaps the Lydians, had a very early gold coinage, which some have supposed even earlier than that of Phidon; but upon grounds that require much additional proof before they are tenable.



ORIENTAL nations, it appears, knew no coins, except the patriarchal weighed pieces of metal, till the Macedonian conquest introduced them; since which, as before observed, a most interesting series has been discovered, which conveys to us the history of a portion of India to within seven centuries of our time; to which the remaining and comparatively recent links will not be difficult to add.

An interesting point with respect to Jewish money is, that positive coins were introduced, in emulation of the neighbouring states, of Grecian origin, in the time of the Maccabees, about two centuries B.C., which received the name of the ancient "weighed lumps, *shekels*:" of these many are to be found in collections, bearing interesting inscriptions, such as "Simeon the liberator of Judea," and frequently religious symbols, such as sacred vessels, &c., connected with the temple, but no "*image*" of a human or divine form.

In Italy, at a later period than the first coins of Greece, a coinage seems to have arisen independently of the Greeks or their Italian colonies, one especially calculated by weight, and not by tale; and it appears to have at first consisted of a large lump of *copper* adjusted to a certain weight, and afterwards impressed with the image of a boar, an ox, &c.; from the name of which, "*pecu*," cattle, the Roman

term pecunia was derived, and, of course, ultimately our words pecuniary, &c. &c.

Pliny has the following remarks upon the origin of Roman money. "The Roman people had no money previous to the defeat of Pyrrhus." "The *as* weighed a pound," and "the king Servius was the first to place a stamp upon the pieces of copper," &c.: he also mentions in the same place, that the largest fortunes possessed by any of the subjects of Servius was one hundred and ten thousand *as*': of persons possessing that amount of wealth he formed the first class. "The first silver money coined," continues Pliny, "was under the consulate of Q. Ogulnius and C. Fabius, five years after the first Punic war." The silver *denarius* here mentioned, he tells us, had at first a car with two or four horses, from which they were called "*bigati*" or "*quadrigati*." "The denarius, called '*victoriatus*,' was coined after the Clodian law, and received its name from the impression of a figure of victory which it bore." Sixty-two years later, Pliny proceeds to inform us that gold was first coined in Rome. So that it appears that the Greeks first coined silver, after which (some say before) the Lydians coined gold; next, the Romans coined copper. Such is a glance at the generally received view of the chronology of the coins of the ancient world, up to the time of the establishment of the Roman empire, whose magnificent series of coins, by far the finest and most interesting of antiquity, taking them all in all, brings us to the era of the commencement of our own coinage; at a period when that of Rome was in its grandest perfection.

On the establishment of the Romans in Britain, their coins soon superseded those of the natives (to be described hereafter), and circulated throughout the whole of Romanised Britain, leaving, doubtless, after the retirement of the Roman power, some sort of taste for its style, though less than might be expected. Roman art, however, influenced the style of our coinage a second time through the lower empire; the coins of Constantinople forming probably the types of some of those Saxon and Norman coins, by which the degenerate remains of our former Roman currency was so completely superseded, and the basis of our present money laid. There is a great similarity, even in style of art, from the 10th to the 12th century A.D., between the coins of the lower empire and those of the

coins of a decidedly Greek character, which were evidently rude copies of Grecian models, more particularly of those of Philip the Second of Macedon. It is conjectured that the great treasure brought by the Gauls from their invasion of Greece and pillage of Delphi, consisted principally of the above-mentioned coins of Philip, and that getting into general circulation in Gaul as a standard currency, it was found convenient to make other coins as nearly as possible of the same form and value. From the close connection of the Gauls and Britons it may naturally be supposed that in their various dealings many of these Greek coins found their way to Britain, where they were in like manner imitated. The British imitations, however, are quite distinct from the Gaulish, and never found except in Britain—a sufficient proof of their native origin (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4).* Coins of this type occur in gold, silver, and copper.† Many of them are exceedingly rude, and the resemblance to the originals they were copied from is scarcely to be traced, except by seeing a large collection, in which all the intermediate gradations of rudeness occur: they are in some cases, perhaps, copies of the already bad Gaulish copies. It will be observed that they are not somewhat thin and flat like the Roman money, but thick and *dished*, precisely after the Grecian manner. The inscriptions, however, are generally in the Roman character, from which it would appear that the Gauls and Britons were in possession of the Roman alphabet previous to their conquest by that people. This, which may be termed the Greek period of the British coinage, lasted for about one hundred and fifty years; that is, from the Gaulish invasion of Greece in the second century B.C., to about the time of the invasion of Cæsar, B.C. 50.

It is very curious to trace the gradual degradation of the workmanship of these coins. At first the head becomes gradually more and more rude; then the bold laurel-wreath of some of the originals, from being perhaps the most visible part of much-worn coins, becomes the only part distinctly copied. Such copies, with nothing but the wreath distinct, on being in their turn re-copied, transmit nothing but the rude semblance of a wreath, as No. 1, which by the moneyers of Cunobelin may have been interpreted as an ear of

* No. 4 is a type found in Jersey, and more like the Gaulish copies.

† See Descriptive Index.

Chapter I.

British Coins previous to the Establishment of the Romans.



HERE are rude coins of tin in existence (Nos. 11 and 12), evidently of native workmanship, which are possibly the earliest British money of which we have any example, and tin being the great ancient staple of the island, appears to favour the view of the great antiquity of these coins, which merit a more careful examination than they have hitherto received, leading, as it might do, to the elucidation of the rude and apparently unintelligible figures with which they are impressed. The commencement and termination of this state of the British coinage are left in uncertainty. The earliest written record respecting the money of the Ancient Britons is the well-known passage from Cæsar, in which he says, "They have either brass money or gold money, or instead of money, rings adjusted to a certain weight."* The coins alluded to by Cæsar were probably of more recent origin than the rude tin money above alluded to, and were most likely those

* "Utuntur aut ære aut nummo aureo aut annulis ferreis ad certum pondus examinatis pro nummo." For the elucidation of this disputed passage we are indebted to Mr. Hawkins, in his "British Silver Coins," and Transactions of Numismatic Society. It reads as above in the earliest MS. he was able to consult, and with slight variation in many others, not becoming permanently corrupted till the middle of the 17th century.

Chapter II.

Coins of the Romans relating to Britain.*

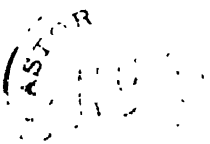


THE forty-second year of our era was marked by the almost complete subjugation of the southern parts of the island, by the emperor Claudius, and from that time, during the long period of the Roman domination, the coins of that great empire became the current money of Britain, and coins of nearly all the emperors are continually found in considerable numbers in all parts of the country. But with the general coinage of the Roman empire this work has nothing to do: it is only such coins as bear especial relation to this country, either by their inscriptions or devices, or such as may be supposed to have been actually minted in Britain, that I shall attempt to describe; though to enter rather more largely upon the subject of Roman coins would be very interesting, from the Roman custom of commemorating their greatest achievements upon their common current money. "If," says Gibbon, "history was lost to us, medals and inscriptions would alone record the travels of Hadrian." In like manner many events connected with Britain are recorded

* In this short chapter on the coins of the Romans in England, I am almost entirely indebted to the beautiful work of Mr. Ackerman, which should be in the hands of every one interested in the subject.

COINS OF THE ANCIENT BRITONS.






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on the coins of Rome, which thus become, doubtless, most interesting relics connected with our early history.

It is not supposed by antiquaries that Roman mints were established in any part of the island, though such existed in many of the principal continental cities, from which most likely the money circulated in Britain was derived;* unless, perhaps, in the case of the independent usurpers, Carausius and Allectus, who may, during their complete separation from the continent, have actually struck their money in Britain.

It would be impossible in the compass of this work to describe all the Roman coins that bear reference to Britain, but a selection in their proper succession will afford a very complete general idea of the subject.



THE first allusion to Britain on a Roman coin occurs in the well-known examples of those of Claudius (No. 13), struck in commemoration of the erection of the triumphal arch, decreed to him by the senate on the conquest of Britain, and minted, it is supposed, in A.D. 46, four years after that event. It has the laureated head of the emperor, with the inscription (abbreviated) TI. CLAVD. CAESAR. AUG. P. M. TR. P. VIIII. IMP. XVI°.—"Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Pontifex Maximus Tribunitia potestate nonum imperator decimum sextum;" the reverse, a triumphal arch surmounted by an equestrian statue between trophies.

The second specimen (No. 14) is one of those on which Britain is personated by a female figure, which has served as the model of the Britannia on our modern halfpence. It is the reverse of a copper coin of Hadrian, whose personal arrival to quell an insurrection in A.D. 121, is one of the great events of the Roman dominion. The attitude of repose given to the figure on the reverse, personating the province of Britain, appears to imply that peace had been restored.†

* Akerman (Roman British Coins) speaks of these coins as being executed at Rome, the figure of Britannia having no local attributes; Roman artists did not know any: whilst coins struck *in* provinces *had* attributes; Parthia, arrows; Africa, trunk of elephant; those of Spain have the rabbit.

† See Dr. Cordwell's account, cited by Akerman, Roman British Coins.

No. 15 is a noble large brass coin of Commodus. The inscription stands M. COMMODVS. ANTONINVS. AVG. PIVS. BRIT., and reads, "M. Commodus Antoninus Augustus Brittanicus." Commodus, as we learn from Herodian, was ambitious of the name of Brittanicus, and after some victories over the Caledonians by a Roman general, he assumed that name on his coins, though he never personally visited the island. On the reverse of this coin the inscription stands P. M. TR. P. X. IMP. VII., and reads, "Pontifex Maximus Tribunitia Potestate decimum Imperator septimum," and on the figure of victory is inscribed VICT. BRIT. "Victoria Brittanicæ."



WAR space obliges us now to proceed at once to the coins of Septimus Severus, who died at York, in A.D. 211, urging his generals (the ruling passion strong in death) to prosecute the war then raging with the Caledonians till they were *exterminated*. No. 16 is a large brass coin of this emperor, with a tolerably well executed head, which, though the last great era of Roman art, that of the Antonines, was fast waning, still exhibits considerable character and grandeur. The reverse shows two winged Victories, attaching a circular buckler to a palm, at the foot of which are captives. Some have supposed the two figures to indicate the gain of two different victories, others that of a victory shared by his son. The inscription of the obverse of this coin stands SEPT. SEVERVS. PIVS. AVG., and reads, "Septimus Severus Pius Augustus;" the reverse has "Victoria Brittanicae." The coins of Caracalla are also good specimens of art, and one especially interesting as exhibiting narrow shields, supposed to represent the "*scutus Angustus*" of the Britons, mentioned by Herodianus. But of greater interest are the almost undoubtedly *British* coins of the usurper Carausius, a bold soldier, who in the reign of Maximianus, taking advantage of holding the command of the Roman fleet at Boulogne, escaped with it to Britain, where he succeeded in ingratiating himself with the people, and grasping the sovereignty of the island. He successfully defied the whole Roman power from A.D. 287 to 293, when he was assassinated by his minister, Allectus, who succeeded to the supreme authority

in Britain, which he held for three years, being finally subdued by the Roman præfect Asclepiodotus, who arriving with a considerable force which had been three years in preparation, encountered this second usurper, and defeated his army with great slaughter. Allectus himself perished in the conflict. Of the coins of Carausius we have many interesting types, of which Mr. Akerman has given a great variety in his interesting and instructive work; among others, one from the fine collection of Mr. Thomas, having the bust of the emperor with the paludamentum and the inscription (abbreviated) "Imperator Carausius Pius Felix Augustus;" on the reverse, the emperor, bareheaded, joins hands with a female who holds a trident; below are the letters RS. R., the meaning of which is uncertain, but the meaning of the figures is more clear—the female is undoubtedly the genius of Britain amicably receiving the new emperor, who flatters her (for the first time probably) as "queen of the sea," by placing a trident in her hand. Carausius seems also to have been the first to perceive the importance of the position of these islands, near to the centre of Europe, and yet separated and fortified by the barrier of the sea. One of his coins (No. 18) has a ship on the reverse, others have on the reverse Moneta (Juno), with her attributes; and a rare gold coin, purchased by the late Mr. Cracherode for £150, and bequeathed by him to the British Museum, has under the figure of Jupiter the letters M.L., supposed to imply *Moneta Londiniensis*. This coin is of wonderfully fine workmanship, and high relief for the period. The obverse, showing the head, an undoubted portrait, is the coin without a No. in the upper corner of our Plate II.

No. 17 is a coin of his treacherous successor, Allectus. He seems also to have been fully aware of the importance of the insular position of Britain, and also of its natural arm—shipping, for he, too, has a ship on the reverse of many of his coins. It has also been supposed, however, that the ship was merely the favourite Roman emblem of the state; but the former theory offers more interest, though it is perhaps scarcely tenable; for a ship forms the arms of the city of Paris, and in that instance certainly no allusion to a fleet, or the importance of shipping to the place, could be meant; and that, doubtless (though there are other hypotheses), was merely the

Roman emblem of the state. There are coins of Allectus, of gold, silver, and brass of the small size; the busts of the emperor are, like those of Carausius,* sharply executed, and have so marked a character that they may doubtless be considered portraits. The specimen (No. 17) has the bust of the emperor with IMP. C. ALLECTVS PIV. FEL. AVG., which reads, "Imperator C. Allectus Pius felicitas Augustus." Several varieties of the coins of Allectus exist, of which Mr. Akerman has given accurate descriptions. If it is probable that the coins of these usurpers were struck in Britain, it is still more so that some of Constantine the Great and his family were; and as space only affords opportunity for one more example of the coins of the Romans relating to Britain, it must be one of Constantine, the first (miscalled) *Christian* emperor, and the last whose coins bear any reference to Britain. The example given is No. 19. The head displays, in the helmet and general treatment, much of the influence of the interesting but debased Greek art of the newly established Eastern empire, from whence it was destined to exert so much influence over nearly all the arts of the early middle ages. The reverse of this coin exhibits captives in a sitting posture, and between a tabarum or banner inscribed VOT X. X.; beneath are the letters P. LON., which have been supposed, on pretty safe grounds, to be "pecunia Londiniensis." It is on this account alone, at any rate, that the coins of Constantine, his empress Fausta, and his sons Crispus and Constantinus the younger, can claim any connexion with the coinage of Britain; and as the coins having those letters are found plentifully in this country, and but rarely on the continent, there appears fair ground for considering them British: the latest of those of his son Constantinus must have been struck previously to A.D. 340, the year of his death, and this is therefore the latest period at which the Roman and the British coinage can claim to be connected. All the coins of Constantine and his family bearing P. Lon. are small brass.

In conclusion, it would appear that the Romans ceased to commemorate on their coins their deeds in this island after Geta

* Mr. Akerman enumerates of the coins of Carausius five varieties in gold, fifty in silver, and upwards of two hundred and fifty in small brass.

and Caracalla, and that after those of the family of Constantine no Roman coins were struck in or for Britain, though the provincial mints in several great cities of the continent remained in activity to a much later period.

The Roman coinage, however, continued doubtless to circulate in Britain till the final abandonment of the island, about A.D. 414, and for some time afterwards; and, indeed, its complete disappearance at last, leaving no vestige of its relative values, names, or inscriptions, and but very little even of some of its designs, appears inexplicable, after having formed the sole currency of the island during certainly four, and perhaps nearly five centuries; for the Saxon sceattæ, and the silver pennies that succeeded them, the sole coin of the island for many centuries, offer scarcely any reminiscence in form, value, or denomination of the coinage of Rome, which was still in many respects fine, even in its decadence. The origin of the money that superseded it in this country will form the subject of the next chapter.

Chapter III.

The Skeattae.



THE departure of the Roman legions about A. D. 414, left the inhabitants of Southern Britain an easy prey to the first bold invaders. But before the Saxon occupation of the island it may be presumed that some sort of coinage, in imitation of the Roman, to which the people had been long accustomed, must have been adopted, and traces of it exist in rude pieces of the Roman style, which are very scarce, as they have hitherto been rejected by cabinets as bad specimens, or forgeries of Roman coin.



THE next sort of money we find in use is of a totally different character, bearing not the slightest resemblance to the Roman, with the exception of one or two devices, copied perhaps from some of the coin of Constantine; and it appears, therefore, that this money must have been brought by the Saxons, with a new set of weights, values, and denominations.



THE coins alluded to are called Skeattæ (Latinised scata), a term which Ruding derives from a Saxon word, meaning a portion, and supposes that these coins were a portion of some merely nominal sum by which large amounts were calculated. They remained partially in use probably long after the general adoption of the Saxon silver penny, as they are mentioned in the laws of Athelstan, where it is stated that 30,000 skeattæ are equal to £120, which would make them in value about one twenty-fifth part less than a penny.

The skeatta is probably, in form and value, an imitation of some Byzantine coin, finding its way, in gradually debasing forms, from Constantinople through the east and north of Germany.* It is thought by some that the Saxons also derived their weight, called Colonia (Cologne) weight, from the Greeks of the lower empire. It was only used by them for their money, and afterwards in England called Tower weight, in consequence of the principal mint being in the tower. Troy weight, so called from being first used in France at Troyes, is three-quarters of an ounce more than Tower weight; so that in coining, the prince, or other privileged person, gained considerably upon every pound weight of metal coined, which at last induced frequent re-coinages; to obtain the discontinuance of which custom the people agreed to a tax called moneyage. Such impositions formed part of what was in Norman times called seignorage, or, the profit of the sovereign. The skeattæ vary from 12 to 20 grains in their weight, and it is therefore difficult to ascertain their current value. The following, and indeed most of the skeattæ, are of very debased art, and the production, probably, of several distinct invading colonies in different parts of the island, and some, perhaps, of foreign importation. The art displayed on them became gradually worse after their first appearance; and one case may be mentioned, in which a head, tolerably distinct at first,

* A work has been published (by Mr. Till), with a view to trace the direct descent of the English silver penny from the Roman denarius, through the coins of the lower empire and the skeattæ.

became gradually so barbarous as to be mistaken by some for a distinctly different type—the wolf and twins; the whole connecting series may be seen in the collection of the British Museum, showing the gradual but well-connected links of decadence. Ruding and Clark have stated that the art exhibited on coins up to the 8th century was not better on the continent than in England, but I could point out several examples of far superior art of a Roman, or rather Romano-Gallic, character in France during that period. Many skeattæ are without inscription at all, others unintelligible—some without christian emblems, others with; but the following are a few of the most striking types, which will serve to give a general idea of the whole:—No. 20 has a profile surrounded by a pretty interlaced band; the reverse the christian emblems of the dove and cross. No. 21 has curious but unintelligibly ornamented devices on both sides. No. 22, on the contrary, is a decided copy of a common coin of Constantine, showing Romulus and Remus suckled by the wolf: No. 23 has been supposed also to represent, more rudely, the same subject, whilst it is but the debased head above alluded to; which, by a still more unskilful re-copy, has been transformed, in No. 24, into a bird. No. 25 has an animal similar to those introduced in the interlacing of Anglo-Saxon illuminations in MSS. of the 7th and 8th centuries, and on the reverse a figure holding in each hand a cross—a device common on Roman coins.* No. 26 is an interesting specimen, bearing a name, and supposed to be one of Ethelbert the First, a king of Kent, which would place it in the 6th century, and before the introduction of christianity; indeed, it bears no christian emblem; on one side is the debased form of the head above alluded to, which but few of my readers would be able to decypher without seeing the whole series. Specimens of skeattæ are scarce, yet many exist in good collections.

* Figures in this style are also found on early Danish coins.

COINS OF THE SAXON HEPTARCHY



Chapter IV.

Coins of the Saxon Heptarchy.

Kings of Kent.



THE long series of coins of the heptarchy are perhaps the most interesting of any monuments of the period, remaining to us. From those of the kings of Kent, from the accession of **Ethelbert**, A.D. 568, to the end of the reign of **Baldred**, 823, I have given five specimens. The first (No. 26) is the silver skeatta of **Ethelbert** the First, previously alluded to, which having no symbol of the cross in any part, is presumed to have been coined before A.D. 606, the period of the introduction of Christianity. It has on one side ETHILID, surrounded with three circles of beading, and on the other the debased head, formerly supposed to be the "bird" or "wolf." Only a few impressions of this rare coin are known: the British Museum has one. No other well-authenticated Kentish coin occurs till after A.D. 725, **Ethelbert II.** A coin of his exists, supposed to be a penny—if so, it is the first known silver penny; the inscription is ETHILBERHT II., but its genuineness has been doubted. The next existing Kentish coins are the silver pennies of **Eadbert**, from A.D. 794 to 798, the earliest known, with the exception of the previous doubtful coin. No. 28 is one of the **Eadbert** pennies: it has the king's name and title REX in three lines, and

on the reverse the moneyer's name, with an ornament. Its authenticity is undoubted.

The account of these authentic coins of the heptarchy—that is, such as can at once be assigned to the respective princes whose effigies and superscriptions they bear—brings us at once upon the interesting series of silver pennies, which formed the only money of the country (with occasional halfpennies) up to the reign of Edward III.*

Silver Pennies.



In the origin of the word penny, Ruding says, "it is variously spelt, as peneg, peninc, &c.," and some derive it from the Latin word, *pendo*, to weigh; others consider that pecunia† is the parent word. It was intended that a pound, Tower, should make 240 pennies, giving 24 grains each; but this weight was gradually decreased by the successive princes, 22½ grains being deemed full weight, and 20 grains being about the average weight down to Henry III. Their standard purity seems to have been 11 oz. 2 dwts. fine, and 11 dwts. alloy. The name of the moneyer, or mint master, of the district in which the piece was coined, was now generally placed on the reverse, with some ornament: the name on this penny of Eadbert, is IAENBERHT.

No. 29 is a coin of Cuthred, from A.D. 794 to 798; it has the king's bust, and *Cudred Rex Cant.*, for *Cantiæ* (Kent); reverse, a cross, with a small wedge in each angle, and the moneyer's name.

* The stycas of Northumberland form an exception; but they are mostly earlier than the period referred to.

† Pecunia, as is well known, meant cattle as well as money (see Introduction, page x), and was frequently used in denoting any possessions whatever; the English word cattle has the same double meaning, being cattles or chattles. Mandeville, the old English traveller, in describing the Holy Land, says, speaking of the redemption:—"For more precyous catelle ne gretter ransoun ne might be put for us than his blessede body," &c. The traveller mentions that even in his day the Chinese had positively a paper currency—a singular proof of the great antiquity of their commercial civilization.

All the coins of **Cuthred** are pennies, and there are four types of them, all rare, except those with the head, the style of which has evidently been suggested by debased Roman coins.

No. 30 is a coin of Baldred. This last king of Kent was subdued by Egbert, A.D. 823. It has the king's bust rudely done, and *Baldred Rex Cant.:* the reverse in the centre has DRVR. CITS. for Dorovernia Civitas (Canterbury), and is the earliest known Saxon coin with the place of mintage upon it. There are other types of the coins of this king, but all rare.

Kings of Mercia.



Of the South and West Saxons no well authenticated coins have been found, but of the kings of Mercia a fine series exists, all silver pennies. No. 31 is a coin of **Eadwald** (A.D. 716), supposed by some to be the same as **Ethelwald.** No. 32 is a silver penny of **Offa** (A.D. 757), whose coins are among the most interesting and beautiful in the Saxon series; the heads are much better executed, with some attention to variety of relief; and the designs on the reverses very elegant and various for the period. It is supposed that his reported residence at Rome, in the pontificate of Adrian, possibly bringing back Italian artists, may account for this superiority. The coin selected as a specimen has the king's bust, and an inscription intended to read, Offa Rex Merciorum.* The different moneyers' names on his coins amount to above 40. There are also silver pennies, but rare, supposed to be of **Cynethryth,** the queen of Offa, having Cynethryth Regina on the reverses. (No. 33.) They are evidently of the same period as those of Offa. On the coins of Offa the moneyer's name sometimes occupies the obverse, but the king is then transferred to the reverse, and never omitted. **Ecgberht,** the son of Offa, A.D. 796,

* The artist has, by mistake, engraved another, with merely Offa Rex on the obverse. The head of Cynethryth (No. 33) will, however, convey some idea of the style of his best coins, though scarcely a sufficiently favourable one.

survived his father only six months; yet there are pennies with his name, having the same moneyers' names as those of his father.

Coenwlf, A.D. 796 to 818. The pennies of this king present a great variety of types, evidently copied from those of Offa, but becoming gradually more and more rude in execution. **Ceolwlf**, A.D. 819, succeeded, and reigned only a year. There is great difficulty in separating his coins from those of **Ciolwf**, A.D. 874, and assigning the proper coins to each, which has formed a delicious field for the discussions of numismatists. Of **Beornwulf**, who reigned from 820 to 824, a few pennies are known, but they are very rare. Of **Ludica**, from 824 to 825, and **Wiglaf**, from 825 to 839, the coins are very barbarous, and those of Wiglaf extremely rare; the specimen in the Museum was once sold for £12. Those of **Berthulf**, A.D. 839 to 852, much in the same style, are not so rare; and those of **Burgred**, A.D. 852 to 874, the last of the Mercian princes, who reigned two-and-twenty years, are more numerous than any of his predecessors. When driven from his dominions by the Danes, he escaped to the continent, and retired to Rome, where he died, and was interred in St. Mary's church belonging to the English school there. The coins of Mercia had gradually declined from the reign of Offa, and Burgred's are the worst of all.

The coins of Burgred have generally a small rude head, surrounded by "Burgred Rex," and on the reverse the moneyer's name, &c., &c. On the expulsion of Burgred, his minister Ciolwf seized the reins of government, but held them but for a short time, when his expulsion terminated the independence of Mercia. Nevertheless, he struck coins, which I have alluded to as being confounded with those of Ceolwlf; but, with the exception of the name, they resemble much more those of Burgred.

All these silver pennies are intended to weigh about 22½ grains.

COINS OF THE SAXON HEPTARCHY.



Kings of the East Angles.



THE earliest coins of the East Angles are those of **Beonna,** about A.D. 750, cotemporary with Offa, king of Mercia. His coins were of the form, size, and appearance of skeattæ, and the king's name is sometimes written in Roman and sometimes in Runic characters, as on the specimen given: No. 34 reads, Beonna Rex; on the reverse is the name of Efe, the moneyer. There is a coin in the Museum with the name of Beonna on one side, and that of **Ethelred,** who succeeded him, on the other; from which it would seem that he had previously occupied the throne conjointly with Beonna. The history of the East Angles, in the early part of the 9th century, is very obscure; but there appears some ground for considering **Ethelweard,*** of whom some coins exist, a prince of this district. There is also a unique coin of **Beorthric,** a prince of whom no record exists, and who is probably one of the unknown kings of the East Angles. **Eadmund,** A.D. 855 to 870, was murdered by the Danes, and afterwards honoured with canonization, and is commonly called St. Eadmund. He is generally styled Rex, or Rex A. or An., and eighteen of his moneyers' names are known. No. 35 is one of his coins, and has the name of Eadmund, with the title Rex, and an A in the centre; and on the reverse, the moneyer's name, and a cross, &c. &c.

After the death of Eadmund, **Guthram** (a Dane) was placed on the throne, who, being converted to Christianity, was baptised by the name of **Ethelstan,** A.D. 878. His name is generally found on his coins without title, but sometimes with Re or Rex; on one coin, which is very rare, Rex Ang. (for Angliæ) appears on the reverse, instead of the moneyer's name, which is the first time the title of "King of England" appears on a coin (unless St. Eadmund's Rex A. may be also so interpreted); for though Egbert, king of the West

* Hawkins' Silver Coins of England, page 34.

Saxons, subdued nearly the whole of South Britain between A.D. 800 and 837, and gave the name of *England* to his territories, it does not appear on his coins. No. 36 is a coin of Ethelstan.

Only one prince, **Eohric**, succeeded Ethelstan in East Anglia, and there are no coins known of his reign. He was expelled by his subjects, and his dominions added to those of Eadward the elder, the son of Ælfred the Great.

Kings of Northumberland.



THE principal distinctive feature in the Northumbrian coins is their metal; it is commonly termed copper, but is in fact a composition, whether accidental or intentional is unknown, containing in 100 parts, 60 to 70 of copper, 20 to 25 of zinc, 5 to 11 of silver, with minute portions both of gold, lead, and tin. These coins were termed stycas, a name supposed to be derived from the Saxon *sticce*, "a minute part," two being equal to one farthing. Small money must have been wanted everywhere in times when an ox was sold for thirty pennies, and a sheep for one shilling, as was the case in the reign of Æthelstan; yet it appears that these stycas were confined to Northumberland. They form the great bulk of the early Northumbrian coinage, but there were also skeattæ of the usual purity of silver, and eventually silver pennies of the same weight and purity as the Saxon money of the other parts of the island. One would expect in this remote part of the island to find a greater degree of barbarism in the execution of the coins; but in the earlier portion of the period during which coins exist, which extends from A.D. 670 to A.D. 945, some of them are quite equal to those of more southern districts, with the sole exception of the coins of Offa; and perhaps we need not be surprised, when we consider the monastic establishments of the period in that part of the island, whose artistic skill was exhibited as early as the 7th century in such wonderful works of illumination as those contained in the magnificent MS. known as "The Durham Book." A series of Northumbrian coins exists, occupying a great

portion of the period above named; but to some of them, from the blundering in the writing of the names on the coins, and other difficulties, it is not easy to assign a proper place.

The earliest known coin of this series (No. 37) is a styca of **Egfrith**, from A.D. 670 to 685, celebrated for his patronage of the church, and religious establishments for disseminating the light of truth, which seems to have been symbolized on this remarkable coin, which bears a cross surrounded by "Ecgfrid Rex," whilst the reverse has a cross from which emanate rays of light surrounded by the word "Lux" (light). **Aldfrid** reigned from A.D. 685 to A.D. 705, and there are two coins, one a skeatta of silver, and the other a styca, which are supposed to be of his coinage.*

Of **Eadbert**, from A.D. 737 to 758, there are coins which have hitherto been assigned to Ecgberht, king of Kent.

Of **Alchred**, 737 to 774, there is a supposed coin; and in the list of Northumbrian kings the name of **Elfwald** occurs from 779 to 788, to whom Mr. Hawkins is induced to attribute three coins of different readings, all evidently corrupt and blundered (as is frequently the case on coins of this period). One is in the collection of Mr. Cuff, and reads ETFVATD; the L's are reversed, but by turning them we obtain "Elfvald." The other is in the possession of Mr. Brummel, and reads VALDꓤELA; one half of this word has the F upside down, and reads backwards: if we read it, first correcting the F, we get ALEF, and then taking the other half of the word, we get ALEFVALD. This may seem to the uninitiated more ingenious than likely, but when the different modes of writing Saxon names are taken into consideration, also the ignorance of the engravers of the dies, or rather punches, who could not, most likely, either read or write, but copied the characters mechanically; and add to this, that in the engraving they must be made *backward*, as on a seal, in order that the impression may be read *forward*,—when we consider all this, the blunders may be easily accounted for, and the ingenious interpretation of Mr. Hawkins be considered a fair one. No. 38 represents this last-mentioned coin, a styca.

* The skeatta is in the collection of Mr. Cuff, the styca in that of Mr. Luxcombe.—*Hawkins' Silver Coins.*

Heardulf reigned from A.D. 794 to 806, but no coins of his were found till 1833, when a hoard of (8000) Northumbrian coins was discovered in digging an unusually deep grave in Hexham churchyard, Durham. They were contained in a bronze vessel, and were all stycas, consisting of 2000 of **Eadred**, 2000 of **Ethelred**, 100 of **Redulph**, 100 Archbishop **Eanbald**, 800 Archbishop **Vigmund**, a few of **Heardulf**, and about 3000 more which were dispersed without examination. It seems probable that they were buried not later than 844, as there were no coins of later date, unless those unintelligible ones which some have supposed, without much ground, to be of Aella.*

Alfwold succeeded Heardulf, but we have no coins of his reign. He was succeeded by **Eanred**, from A.D. 808 to 840, of whom the stycas are numerous, presenting sixty or seventy moneyers' names. There is also a silver penny, by some attributed to him; but Mr. Hawkins wishes on several grounds to assign it to some other prince of the same name.

Of **Ethelred**, from A.D. 840 to A.D. 848, there are stycas differing slightly in the disposition of minor ornaments from those of his predecessors. These principally occur in conjunction with the name of the moneyer Leofdegn, who seems to have aimed at a little more embellishment than his predecessors and cotemporaries. There is in the collection of Mr. Brummel a coin of fine silver of this king, in all other respects resembling his usual stycas; but such pieces, of which there are examples of different styles and periods, can only be regarded as essays or caprices of some one engaged in the Mint, and not as forming part of the general currency.

Of **Redulf**, who usurped the throne for a few months only, during the reign of Æthelred, there are some coins in existence of the usual character. Of **Osbercht**, A.D. 848 to 867, who succeeded Æthelred, there are a few stycas, but very rare.

Of **Aella**, who reigned about this period, there are no coins, unless those unintelligible ones found among the Hexham hoard before mentioned should prove to be his.

Regnald landed in Northumbria, A.D. 912, and being successful

* Hawkins' British Silver Coins.

in establishing himself, reigned till 944. His coins are very rare, and interesting on account of the Roman title *rex* being abandoned by him for the Saxon *cununc*. No. 39, in the collection of the Dean of St. Patrick's, being broken, shows only *Reg*, the *nald* being broken away, but the word *cununc* is perfect. The reverse shows a trefoil or triple knot, perhaps an early symbol of the Trinity; it is the size and form of the Saxon Penny.

Anlaf (called king of Ireland) next invaded Northumbria in 937, and though at first defeated, eventually established his power, being elected in 942: he was overthrown and defeated by Edmund in 945. His coins are silver pennies, and very rare. No. 40 is one of them. It has the Danish raven, the badge of their enchanted standard, and on the reverse a small cross, and may perhaps be considered one of the earliest examples of an approach to an heraldic cognizance.

In 927, **Eric,** the son of Harold of Norway, had been placed by Athelstan (grandson of Alfred the Great) as his feudatory king in Northumberland, but his authority was not acknowledged till elected by the Northumbrians themselves in 949, and in two years afterwards he was expelled and slain, and is considered the last king of Northumbria, Eadred having succeeded in adding that district finally to his dominions. The coins of Eric are silver pennies: he is styled Eric Rex, with sometimes N for Northumbria, and a sword like that on the coins of St. Peter.

Coins of Saints.



THIS seems to be the proper place to speak of coins of saints, or rather coins bearing their names, which were struck by particular abbots in virtue of authority granted for that purpose. Those of **St. Peter** have been called Peter pence, and erroneously supposed to have been coined for the purpose of paying to Rome the tributes which bore that name. The coins bearing the name of St. Peter are silver pennies, and were coined at York, as the legend on the reverse is

always Eboraci (York) more or less abbreviated. The style and execution of the sword on the obverse being precisely similar to that on the coins of Eric, refers these coins at once to that period. No. 41 is a specimen.

Those of **St. Martin** are similar, with the exception of having "Lincoia civit" (city of Lincoln) on the reverse: they are undoubtedly of the same period.

Those of **St. Edmund** (No. 42) have no place of mintage: they appear at once earlier than Edward the Confessor, and must be placed at latest with those of St. Peter and St. Martin, and possibly refer to St. Eadmund Rex, of the East Angles, A.D. 855 to 870.

Coins of Dignitaries of the Church.



Ye Archbishops, Bishops, and Abbots, had authority, soon after the firm establishment of Christianity in the island, to strike money and enjoy the profits of mintage. But Archbishops alone had the privilege of stamping the coins with their portraits and names; a privilege withdrawn by Athelstan in 924. The ecclesiastical coinage after this period is only distinguished from the royal by peculiar mint marks, and these terminated in the reign of Henry VIII. The specimens given in this plate are from the coins of Archbishops previous to the edict of Athelstan. The coins of Archbishops of Canterbury are pennies.*

No. 44 is one of **Jaenbert,** who held the see of Canterbury from 763 to 790. It has a flower surrounded by IAENBRHT. ARBP., and on the reverse "Offa Rex," from which it would appear that they had in some way joint jurisdictions.

No. 43 is a coin of **Ceolnoth,** who held the see of Canterbury from 830 to 870; it has the front face of the Archbishop, with his

* Hawkins' British Silver Coins.

name, and on the reverse a cross with "civitas" in the angles; the legend, DOROVERNIA* (Canterbury).

The coins of the *Archbishops of York* were stycas† till they became by the edict of Athelstan assimilated to the coins of the realm; the specimen (No. 45) is one of Ulphere or Vulphere, who held this see from 854 to 892. He is the last whose name occurs on coins of the episcopal mint.

* There are also coins of Vulfred, 803 to 830; Plegmund, 891 to 923; and Ethered, 871 to 890.

† There are also stycas of Eanbald, 796; and Vigmund, 851.

Chapter V.

Coins of the Sole Monarchs of England.

(From Egbert to Edward the Confessor.)



THE first sole monarch, as **Egbert** (Ecgbeorght) has been termed, became king of the West Saxons in the year 800, and gradually subduing nearly the whole of South Britain, gave the name of England to his territories. But Burgred, king of Mercia, reigned as late as 874, in the time of Alfred the Great. Ethelston was also king of the East Angles late in the reign of Alfred—namely, 890; and Eric, king of Northumberland, though tributary to the grandson of Alfred in 951, might even till then be considered as holding separate jurisdiction; and it was not till Eadred, another grandson of Alfred, who succeeded his brothers Athelstan and Eadmund, that Northumbria was annexed, and not till Edgar, that the whole kingdom may be said to have been firmly united under one monarch. But having already spoken of the kings of the heptarchy separately, I may henceforth, for the sake of convenience of arrangement, treat of the coins of Egbert, and his successors, as sole monarchs of England.

The coins of Egbert do not differ in general from those of the kings of the heptarchy; some have the king's profile with his name, as "Ecgbeorht Rex," with a cross and the moneyer's name on the re-

COINS OF THE SAXON SOLE MONARCHS



verse; others have a cross with his name and title, and on the reverse a different cross with the moneyer's name; some have a monogram supposed to be "Dorob. C." (city of Canterbury), and others "Saxo" or "Saxon," with the king's name and title as legend. No. 46 is that with the supposed monogram, "Dorob. C." on the reverse.

Ethelwfl (837 to 856) succeeded his father A.D. 837; but his brother, Æthelstan, took a part of the territory; namely, Kent, Essex, Sussex, and Surrey. On his death they reverted to Ethelwfl; so that some of his coins exhibit the legend, Rex. Cant. Saxoniorum, and sometimes Occidentalium Saxoniorum. Canterbury is the only mint named on the coins of this king. No. 47 is one of his coins: it has a head surrounded with "Edelwfl Rex." and the reverse a double cross, with the moneyer's name. But there are many varieties of his coins in which the small crosses are of a different design, &c.; some have the monogram of Christ in the centre of the reverse.



Ethelbald (855 to 860). A coin of this king is said to have been in existence, and No. 48 is from an engraving of it, made under doubtful authority. But Dr. Coombe affirmed, that the coin really was once in the collection of Mr. Austin.

Ethelbearht, second son of Ethelwfl (856 to 866). Sixty varieties of the moneyers' names upon his coins are known. No. 49, a coin of this king, has his bust, with the legend "Edelbearht Rex," and on the reverse the letters of the moneyer's name, arranged in the angles of a cross.

Ethelred (866 to 871) deprived Æthelbearht's children of their inheritance, and ascended the throne himself. His coins are generally light, and of impure silver, and somewhat resemble those of Burgred, king of Mercia.* No. 50 is a specimen.

Aelfred the Great (871 to 901) was the younger brother of Æthelred, and succeeded him. His portrait is very rudely executed on his first coins, and in the same style as those of his predecessors; but others of later date have the portrait in a somewhat improved style, and on the reverse a large monogram of "London," occupying the whole field. On some the word "Ornsnaford," for Oxford, occurs, forming, with the king's name, three lines. There is also a

* Hawkins' British Silver Coins.

small coin of his, appearing to be a halfpenny. A very peculiar piece is also in existence, weighing 162 grains, instead of about 20 grains, the average weight of his pennies. It must, however, be rather considered in the light of a medal than a coin.* The specimen I have given of the coins of Ælfred, No. 51, is that with the improved portrait and the large monogram of London.

Edward the Elder (901 to 925) succeeded his father, Ælfred. His coins are very numerous, exhibiting above eighty varieties of moneyers' names; both pennies and halfpennies of his reign occur;† the latter, however, seldom weigh more than from 7 to 9 grains. His head appears on his coin in a rude but somewhat Roman style, and the reverses are very various, some with a building, of too coarse execution to be interesting as a record of any period of architecture, and others with a large hand expressed by raised outlines. No. 52 is a reverse of one of his coins, with the hand issuing from a cloud, the obverse of which has merely "Eadweard Rex," and a small cross in the centre. No. 53 is one of the reverses, with a building, and the moneyer's name "Regnald," and "Eborace, cv." (city of York); the obverse, like the other, has no head, but merely the king's name, and a small cross in the centre. These buildings on the reverses are very much in the style of some that are found on late Roman coins, particularly those of Constantine, thought to be English, from having P. LON. on the reverse, supposed to be "Pecunia Londiniensis;" and from some specimens of these coins discovered at the time, the buildings in question may have been copied.

Ethelstan (925 to 941) succeeded his father. He paid considerable attention to his coinage, determining, among other regulations made at a grand synod, at which Wulfhelme, archbishop of Canterbury, and all the wise and powerful of the kingdom were assembled, that the whole coinage of the realm should be alike, and therefore withdrew from archbishops, or others, the privilege of having their portraits or names on the coins which they minted, and also established places of coinage at a number of the then principal

* In the possession of Mr. Garland.

† It has been thought that they are one-third of pennies, as such coins are mentioned in the laws of Alfred.

towns. The ecclesiastical and royal mints have, from this period, no distinctive mark till about Edward the First, when those privileged to mint adopted mint marks, such as initial letters or badges, by which their coins can be distinguished to the time of Henry VIII. Athelstan, however, did not interfere with the *moneyer's* name, which still continued on the reverses of the coins, and from this period more frequently accompanied by the name of the place of mintage, occasionally preceded by the word "Urbs," instead of "Civitas." He is generally styled Rex, sometimes Rex Saxorum, but frequently Rex totius Britanniæ; showing that Egbert and his descendants have not been styled sole monarchs of all Britain by subsequent historians alone, but that it was a title of their own assumption: indeed, so great an event was the consolidation of the heptarchy considered, that more than one of the British monarchs had thoughts of assuming the title of emperor (imperator), but ceded to a contrary wish of the Pope. There are on the coins of Athelstan about sixty variations of names of mints, and full one hundred of moneyers' names, and the reverses of some have rude buildings, like those of his father. Some little confusion occurs as to some coins formerly attributed to Athelstan the (self-styled) sole monarch, which Mr. Hawkins is inclined to attribute to Athelstan of the East Angles; but the specimen No. 54 is an undoubted coin of the grandson of Alfred. It has the head of the king, in imitation of the debased Roman style, and on the reverse the moneyer's name and the place of mintage, "London."

Eadmund (941 to 946). His coins are similar in general character to those of his brother Athelstan, but none have been found having buildings on the reverses, like those of his two predecessors. His portrait has sometimes a helmet, and sometimes a crown; in the specimen No. 55 it is helmeted. The place of mintage is generally omitted on his coins; some of them have been mistaken for those of St. Edmund.

Eadred (946 to 955), another brother of Athelstan. The types of his coin are similar to those of his immediate predecessor. The specimen No. 56 has "Eadred Rex;" and on the reverse the moneyer's name. Norwich is the only ascertained place of mintage in this reign.

Eadwig (955 to 959). The son of Eadmund succeeded his uncle. The specimen No. 57 has his portrait, with "Eadwig Rex;" the reverse, which I have not given, has only the moneyer's name and a small cross. No. 57½ is the reverse of another of his coins, with the moneyer's name and a peculiar ornament. The head (No. 57) approaches the style of the continental art of the period more nearly than any other specimen of the series.

Eadgar (958 to 975) had been elected to, or rather had usurped, during his brother's life, a portion of the country, and on his death became sole monarch; the first Saxon king who has a real claim to that title. He renewed the edict of Æthelstan respecting the uniformity of the coinage, and also enacted, in addition, that none should refuse it, rendered necessary by the clipping of the pennies, which had reduced them to half their value. St. Dunstan refused to celebrate mass on Whitsunday, until three moneyers, who had falsified the coin, had undergone their punishment—loss of the right hand. The coins of Eadwig present few distinctive characters from those of his predecessors, and he is styled simply "*Rex*," but sometimes the letters TO. BI. occur, which may be "Totius Britanniæ." His coins are numerous; the moneyer's name frequently occurs without the place of mintage. The specimen No. 58 shows the king's head with a fillet and crown; the reverse has the moneyer's name, &c.

Edweard the Martyr (975 to 978), son of Edgar, after reigning three years, was murdered at the age of 17, by command of his step-mother, Elfrida. Notwithstanding his early death and short reign, his coins are common, but they appear somewhat ruder in execution than those of his father. He is styled "Rex Anglorum," more or less abbreviated: in the specimen No. 59 it is AGL. only.

Æthelred, the son of Elfrida (978 to 1016). This weak prince succeeded to the throne at the early age of ten, and the improvement in the coinage must probably be attributed to Dunstan, who, tired of the political intrigues which had occupied too much of his earlier career, devoted himself in his declining years to those arts in which he is known to have been a great proficient. The coin represented in the specimen No. 60 represents the king in a sort of mailed armour peculiar to the period, and wearing a crowned helmet, partially of



mail, but protected by a longitudinal ornamented bar; the whole sufficiently well executed to form an interesting record of the arms of the period. The reverse is one of the first examples of the voided cross, which, with the addition of the martlet in the angles, formed subsequently the device of the reverse of some of the coins of Edward the Confessor, and has been termed his arms. A sceptre also appears for the first time on some of the coins of Æthelred, in front of the profile, which in subsequent reigns became general. There is much controversy respecting some coins bearing this king's name, which have a strong resemblance to coins of the early Irish kings, and are generally supposed to have been coined by Æthelred in Dublin, his father having possessed himself of a large portion of Ireland.

Edmund Ironside, the son of Æthelred (1016 to 1017), on the death of his father, found the kingdom in the greatest confusion from the contest going on with the Danes, who, under Sweyn, had landed in 1013, and whose son, the youthful Cnut, now disputed the kingdom with the successor of Æthelred. It was eventually agreed to divide it; but Edmund dying, in 1017, Cnut became sole monarch. Of Edmund Ironside no coins have been discovered.

Cnut (1017 to 1035). His coins are very numerous, above 340 variations of moneyers' names being known, and more places of mintage than of the coins of any other reign. His coins resemble, in execution, those of Æthelred. The specimen given, No. 61, is supposed to commemorate the peace established with Edmund Ironside in 1016, having the word "Pacx" (peace) in the angles of a voided cross on the reverse. Coins have been found, but they are very rare, where Cnut is described as "Rex Danorum," but they were of course coined in Denmark.* There are coins of his, also, which have the name of Dublin on the reverse; which proves that he also held in subjection a portion of Ireland.

Harold I. (1035 to 1040). His coins resemble closely those of his father and Æthelred. The specimen No. 62 has his portrait in a sort of mail armour, with a sceptre, with "Harold Rex;" the reverse, the voided cross, &c.

* Hawkins.

Harthacnut (1040 to 1042) was elected king of England on the death of his brother. English and Danish coins (both rare) of this king are found, and it is difficult to separate them, as there was a place of mintage in Denmark, the name of which cannot be distinguished from London. The specimen No. 63 has on the reverse a cross formed of four ovals, similar to crosses on some of the coins of his father. He is merely styled "Rex," without any reference to Denmark or England.

Edward the Confessor (1042 to 1066). On the death of Harthacnut, who perished from excess of gluttony, thoroughly detested for his cruelty by the whole nation, the Saxon line was restored; and the throne reverted to Eadward, the surviving son of Æthelred. His coins are very various; on some of them the head is bearded, possibly as intimating his coming to the throne at so late a period of life—a somewhat unusual circumstance in those times, or possibly from his wearing a beard, in fulfilment of some vow or penance connected with his well-known devotional character, which gave him the cognomen of Confessor. His pennies vary exceedingly in size, from half an inch to an inch, but appear to have been all of the same nominal value, every intermediate gradation occurring without any regularity. It appears that halfpence and farthings were formed at this time by cutting them into two or four, as parcels of coins have been found so cut, which had evidently never been in circulation, seeming to prove that they were so issued from the mint. The specimen No. 64 shows a coin of this king, which, for the first time, exhibits a full figure of the sovereign seated on a throne, holding the orb and sceptre. It is surrounded with EADPRD. REX ANGLO., for "Eadward Rex Anglorum," the Saxon P being used for W in Edward. The reverse shows the voided cross with martlets in the angles, called the Confessor's arms. Specimen No. 65 is a silver penny of this king; the head is bearded, with a helmet; and there is a voided cross, and the place of mintage, on the reverse. In a communication by Sir H. Ellis to the Numismatic Society, a halfpenny also of his reign is mentioned. Edward is supposed to have first introduced from Normandy, where he had long resided in exile, the oppressive custom of frequent re-coinages, each alteration causing a great loss to the nation and great gain to

the prince; a practice abundantly abused by some of the first sovereigns after the Norman Conquest.

Harold II. (1066). A son of the powerful Earl Godwin, whose daughter the late king had married, now usurped the throne. His father had married a daughter of Cnut, so that he had some pretension to the crown through the Danish line, and, overlooking the claim of the infant Edgar Atheling, assumed the title of king. His reign terminated nine months afterwards in the battle-field of Hastings; but though he reigned only nine months, there are coins that may undoubtedly be ascribed to him, as they have been discovered in parcels which contained no others except those of William the Conqueror and Edward the Confessor; otherwise they might have been attributed to Harold I. The specimen No. 66 exhibits the profile of the king, with a double-arched crown (like one on some of the coins of his predecessors), and a sceptre. I have heard no good reason assigned for the word "Pax," on the reverse, the existence of which seems rather to invalidate the supposition given for the appearance of that word on a coin of Cnut. Ruding (who quotes North) explains this by the circumstance of its existing on a coin of Edward the Confessor, struck, he thinks, in commemoration of a peace, or compact made with Earl Godwin (Harold's father), by which that family was to succeed to the throne—a word also adopted in rivalry by William of Normandy, in token of his own alleged compact with Edward, for *his* succession to the throne. It was continued by Rufus, probably with the same feeling. The portrait of Harold is represented bearded, like that of Edward the Confessor; imitated, possibly, to convey an idea of his being the adopted successor, as beards were not worn generally at the period, but merely a moustache on the upper lip, which the immediately succeeding Norman coins represent very clearly. The coins of Harold close the Anglo-Saxon series.

Chapter VI.

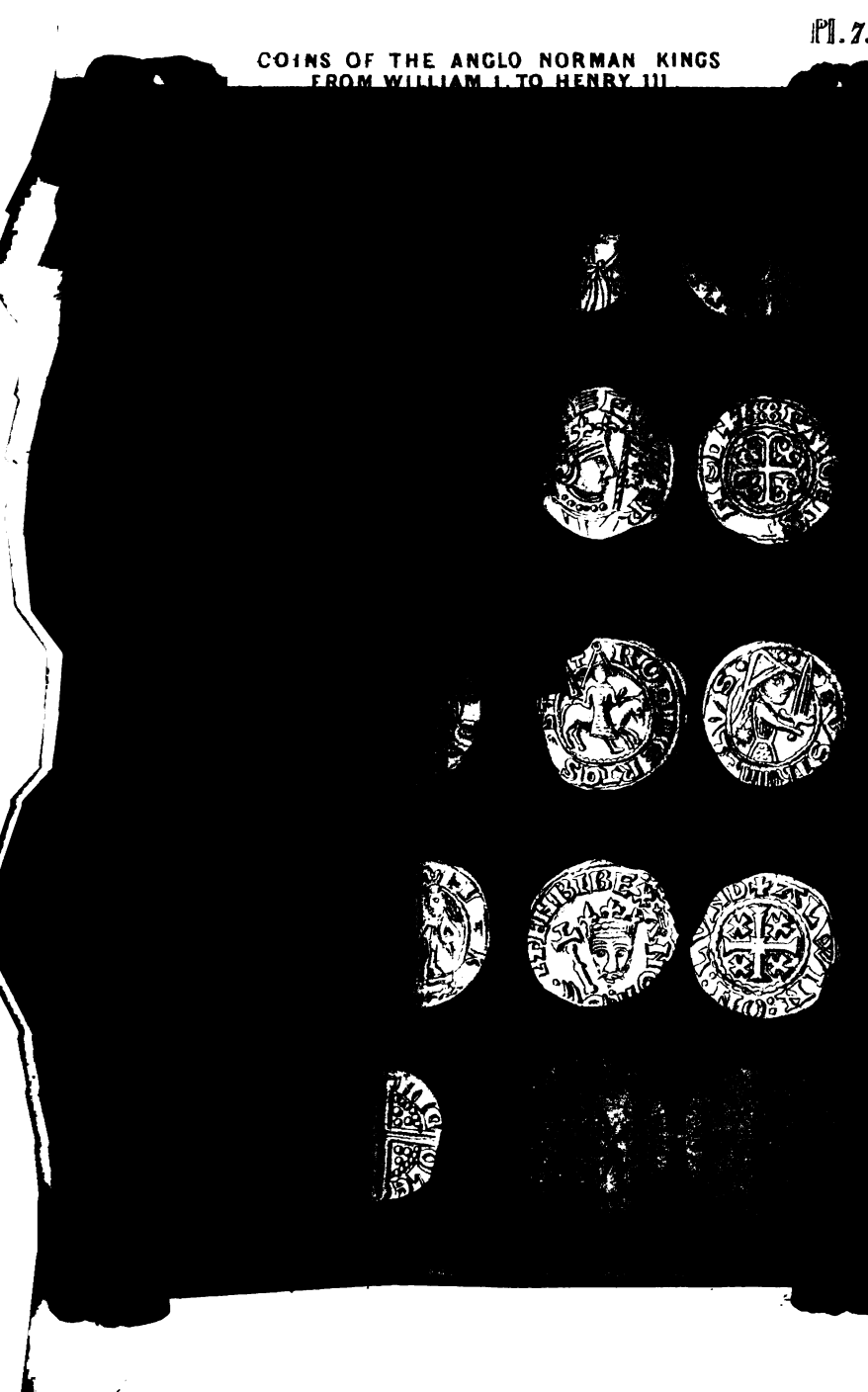
Coins of the Anglo-Norman Kings.



THE great political changes following the Norman conquest might be expected greatly to affect the coinage in some way—probably by the introduction of gold coins, as used, though sparingly, by continental nations. But such was not the case. In Anglo-Saxon times the gold bezants *(Byzantiums)* of Constantinople circulated in the country, but no attempt was made then or now to supplant them by a national coin. The only changes now made were those affecting *imaginary coins*, or rather, denominations for certain sums, of which no positive coin existed: such as the *mancus*, supposed to be derived from *manucusum*, coined money. The mancus, it is supposed, may possibly have been a positive Italian coin, of gold, which found its way to Britain after the conversion, but soon disappearing, left only its name and value, as means of defining larger sums than it was convenient to estimate by the small silver and brass coin of the land. The *mancus* expressed a value equal to thirty pennies, or six shillings of five pence; then the value of the shilling.

This shilling—the Saxon scil, or scilling—was equally an imaginary coin. By this term, the Saxons at one time intended five pennies, and at another four. William I. settled the Saxon shilling

COINS OF THE ANGLO NORMAN KINGS
FROM WILLIAM I. TO HENRY III.



at four pennies, but also established the Norman shilling at twelve pennies; yet no positive coin of that denomination and value appeared till the reign of Henry VII. The term shilling has been favoured with many derivations; some trace it to the Latin sicilicus, which signified a quarter of an ounce; others to a Saxon word meaning a scale, or measure.

The mark was a Danish term of computation, introduced about the time of Alfred; it was then valued at 100 pennies, but, on the coming of the Normans, when their shilling of twelve pennies was introduced, the mark was valued at 160 pennies.

The pound was also what might be termed an imaginary coin, but referred principally to weight. The pounds were of gold or silver, each meaning the nominal value in money according to the current coin that could be made of the pound weight of either metal.

These imaginary coins Ruding calls "moneys of account," and it was possibly to represent such imaginary sums, when larger than easily represented by current coin, that the Chinese invented their paper-money, alluded to in the note at page 14. Sterling is another term early connected with our coinage, which soon became a name by which to distinguish English money on the continent. Walter de Pinchbeck, a monk of St. Edmondbury, in the time of Edward I., derives it from Easterling, a name given to persons who periodically examined the mint and regulated the coinage—possibly at Easter; so that the term means money true according to the last examination; as, one hundred pennies, or pounds, Easterling, or sterling.*

With this short introduction, we may proceed to examine the actual coins of William the Conqueror and his immediate successors, which consist entirely of silver pennies; for, with the Saxon era, copper entirely disappears for a long period.

* Grimm, in his "Deutsche Mythologie," has given us the derivation of Easter, from Bede; who states that April, in which Easter generally falls, was anciently called, by his countrymen, Esturmonat (Eastermonth), from the name of their goddess Eastra, whose festival occurred at that period of the year.



IN the conquest and accession of William of Normandy (A.D. 1066 to 1087), it might have been expected, as I have just suggested, that a great change would take place in the style of the coinage, seeing that the arts in general were in a much more forward state, at this period, on the continent than in England. But no improvement took place, and the Saxon types were strictly adhered to, as well as the same weight and standard



THERE is much difficulty in assigning the coins (all silver pennies) of the first two Williams to their respective issuers; and as there are a great variety of types of each, it would be impossible, in the compass of this work, to point out all the different characteristics, with the reasons for attributing them to the one or the other William. Farthings and halfpennies, as under Edward the Confessor, were formed by cutting the pennies in two or four. The specimen (No. 67) is an undoubted penny of William I. In Pillem Rex, the William is spelt with the Saxon P instead of W.

William Rufus (1087 to 1100). The specimen (No. 68) represents the king in full face, crowned, with PILLEM REX, as in the coins of his predecessor. The number of coins of these kings discovered together at Bearworth, in Hampshire, in 1833, exceeded 12,000; so that one or two of their types, which before that time were rare, have become amongst the most common of our early coins.

Henry I. (1100 to 1135). It is on record that this king enacted especial regulations with regard to the coinage, but of what precise nature numismatists are not agreed. He, however, abolished the oppressive tax called moneyage, alluded to at page 31: and to prevent falsification of money, grown excessive, enacted that, in addition to the loss of the right hand, the guilty party should suffer also loss of sight and further mutilations. It seems pretty clear, however, from the evidence of the coins themselves, that, although surnamed Beauclerk from his learning and accomplishments, he

did not interest himself greatly in the art bestowed upon his monies, for they are, if anything, rather more rude than those of his immediate predecessors. It has been said, that some little disagreement exists as to the distinction between the different Henries; but, as connected with the present king, that difficulty can only occur with those of his reign, and those of Henry II. and Henry III.; and, in most instances, this difficulty does not appear very great, for the general features of the coins of Henry I. place them at once nearest to those of the two Williams. Another distinction appears to be, that the crown ornamented with the fleur-de-lis was not *generally* adopted till the reign of Stephen, and even then not perfectly defined; but in the next reign (Henry II.) it became much better developed, and in Henry III. nearly perfect; whilst on the coins of his son it assumed that complete and decisive design, which continued on all the silver coins through a long succession of reigns, even to Henry VII. If I am right in this conjecture, some coins may be removed from Henry I. to Henry II. The specimen given* (No. 69) is much like some coins of Rufus; it has a front face, with a moustache on the upper lip. Some have the inscription HNRE EX I.; others have the name Henri, and some Henricus, but these latter are rare.

Stephen (1135 to 1154). It has been said that Stephen, and especially some of his barons (who during the civil wars of his reign assumed the privilege of coining money), debased the coin to a very great extent; but these charges are not borne out by existing coins, either against the king himself or his barons of whose coins any specimens exist.

The specimen (No. 70) is one of the most common of his coins; it shows the flower-de-luced crown before spoken of, has a flag instead of sceptre, and for legend, "Stifne Rex," which is, however, very variously spelt on different coins. A remarkable coin of his, struck at Derby, has "Stephanus Rex." The head is peculiarly barbarous; but on the reverse, the device (called the arms of the Confessor) is pretty well executed. Some have the name spelt "Steine." Of the money struck by influential persons, who during

* These remarks will be exemplified by reference to the plate.

his reign assumed the privilege of coining money bearing their own effigy, the first specimen (No. 71) is that of Henry, bishop of Winchester, the king's brother; it shows the bishop's head crowned, and accompanied by a crozier, with the legend "Henricus Epc." The next (No. 72) is one supposed to be that of Robert of Gloucester, the illegitimate son of Henry I. It is the earliest example of an English coin with a figure on horseback, which is rather expressively, though quaintly executed; it has the legend "Robertus. . St. t." The reverse, for which I have not room, much resembles those on the coins of the king: it is curious on account of the ornament between the letters of the legend. The next specimen (No. 73) is one of Eustace, the son of Stephen, coined by him at York. It represents a figure in a sort of mail armour, holding a sword, with a conical helmet, having the nose-piece. The legend is simply "Eustacius." The reverse, which I have not given, has the place of mintage—Eboraci (York), &c. Another coin of Eustace (No. 74) has what has been termed a "lion passant" to the right, which, if it be so, is very interesting, as an extremely early example of a true heraldic device on a coin—the earliest English examples being, I believe, a ½ florin of gold of Edward III., which has a helmet, surmounted by a lion passant, guardant, and the subsequent noble of the same reign, with the royal arms complete. Another interesting coin of this reign (No. 75) is one with two full figures, formerly supposed to be Stephen and Henry, and struck in commemoration of the treaty of peace concluded between them in 1153; but Mr. Hawkins considers the figures to be Stephen and Matilda his wife, struck when she commanded the army by which his liberation was effected. These two figures, though rude, are yet interesting relics of such art as was bestowed upon the coinage of the period. I mention art as connected with the coinage, because the arts in general, of this period, especially architecture, the art of illuminating books, and the goldsmith's art, displayed in the chasing of rich reliquaries, were all in a flourishing state: and, indeed, the 12th century may be considered the finest epoch of the middle ages for grandeur, and at the same time richness and consistency of style, in merely decorative art. It seems, extraordinary, therefore, that the artistic efforts of such a period should not have been extended to the coinage.

Henry II. (1154 to 1189), on ascending the throne after the death of Stephen, found himself perhaps the most powerful monarch of Europe. He had previously inherited from his father, Touraine and Anjou; from his mother, Normandy and Maine. With his wife he received the great duchy of Aquitaine, comprising a large portion of the south-west of France. So that the extent of his territories in Europe, without conquest or aggression, was greater than that of any succeeding English monarch, with the exception of the Henries V. and VI., during the short and illusory conquest of France. His first coins were very badly executed, as appears by those found at Royston, in 1721, and a large parcel (5700) found at Tealby, Lincoln, in 1807, which were as fresh as if just issued from the Mint. In a subsequent coinage he procured a foreign artist, Philip Aymary, of Tours, and the execution, though still not good, was much better than the first coinage. The head has a full face, and the crown presents the fleur-de-lis pattern pretty perfectly defined. The first coinage has "Henri Rex Angl.," the "Rex Angl." variously abbreviated; the reverse is an ornamental cross, with crosses in the angles. The second coinage has the legend "Henricus Rex." Specimen No. 76 is one of the first coinage. Coins of this reign have been discovered bearing the moneyers' names Achetil and Lantier,—names which occur in the record called the "Chancellor's roll," of the 11th Henry II., as moneyers at Wilton; which decides positively these coins to be of this reign, and not of Henries I. and III., and proves Ruding and Combe to have been right in the appropriation of the coins of those reigns.

Richard I. (1189 to 1199) and John (1199 to 1216). Richard I., during a reign of ten years, only passed four months in England, and those employed in oppression and extortion; whilst his rival, Philip Augustus of France, whose fame has been unfairly eclipsed by the barbaric valour of Richard, was busily employed in reforming the coinage of France, which in his reign moved a good two centuries in advance of that of England. Its long-established gold coinage was improved by some fine new pieces, and the style of the silver improved; while there are no English coins of the reign of Richard in existence, and possibly none were struck, though some

of his continental pieces are known, describing him as Duke of Aquitaine, which bear also his title of King of England. Of the disgraceful reign of **John** we have some coins struck in Ireland, but no English ones, though records exist proving that coinages took place in his reign. He had, in his father's life, received the title of Lord of Ireland, and probably struck coins there under that authority.

Henry III. (1216 to 1272). His silver pennies have the king's head, with front face, and "Henricus Terci," or III., which fully distinguishes them from Henry II. The flower-de-luced crown, too, has become more perfect, and only requires to be thrown into perspective, by lowering those at the sides and causing their exterior limbs to disappear, to make it, in all respects, like the fully developed crown of this style of the next reign. The specimen (No. 77) has the king's head, a front face, bearded, with the crown, and also exhibits, for the first time, the waving hair which afterwards became general. The reverse has a cross botone (that is to say, with double limbs, each terminating in a pellet), and the old ornament of the three pellets renewed in the angles; a reverse which, with the exception of the cross, being made simple, now became the type of all the silver money up to the reign of Henry VII., and did not finally disappear till the end of James I., 400 years after its adoption by Henry III. Nearly all the coins of the reigns recently described have still the moneyer's name and place of mintage on the reverse. Ruding supposes that this prince issued a coinage of halfpennies and farthings, which were afterwards recalled.

Henry III. also issued a gold coinage, called gold pennies, which, however, circulated but a short time, of which No. 78 is a specimen. It is of very superior style to the silver coins, and represents the king sitting on a throne, ornamented with mosaic work. It is, however, by no means equal to the gold coins of Philip Augustus of France; the masse, the florin, and the royal of that monarch being well executed coins of fine gold.

Ruding describes the gold issue of Henry III. as one called gold pennies, and weighing two sterlings, and being coined for twenty pennies of silver; but that it afterwards passed for twenty-four pennies, or two shillings of twelve pence. He says, this

piece, properly a royal, was the first of the sort coined in Europe; but he must have overlooked the coins of France, and especially those of Philip Augustus. Whether copied in some degree from the coins of France or not, this small attempt at a gold issue utterly failed, and the coinage relapsed into its miserable series of silver pennies.

Chapter VII.

Coins of the Kings of England.

(From Edward the First to Richard the Third.)



THE coins of Edward I. (A.D. 1273 to 1307) exhibit the head of the king, designed, for the first time, in a style and manner (slightly indicated in the previous reign) that was to continue without alteration for eight successive reigns, including the commencement of Henry VII.; no difference being made in the face with any view to the individual likeness of the respective sovereigns: it was, in fact, a merely conventional king's head. The reverse now adopted, with the simple cross, continued, for the same period as the head, to be the only device on our silver coins, and remained in use on some of them even until the comparatively recent reign of James I.

The consequence of the similarity above alluded to has been to cause much difficulty in assigning the proper coins to kings of the same name, especially Edwards I., II., III., as they have no numerals after the name. Numismatists have, nevertheless, suggested many ingenious methods of effecting the separation.

COINS OF EDWARD I II & III.





NE of them is afforded by the coins struck at Durham by the bishops, whose personal mint marks distinguish the coins of each. Bishop Beck's (during the last twenty-four years of Edward I. and the first three of Edward II.) have a small cross moline for mint mark; therefore his early coins, if they can be ascertained, are undoubtedly of the reign of Edward I. Bishop Kellow held the see from 1313 to 1316, in the reign of Edward II., and therefore all having his mint mark—a small cross, with one limb bent in the form of a crosier—are undoubtedly of the reign of Edward II. Bishop Beaumont held the see during the last two years of Edward II. and the first three of Edward III., and his coins are marked with a lion rampant.

By comparing the coins of these prelates with other coins of the realm, which were precisely similar, with the exception of the mint mark, an approximation to a proper separation of the coin of these three reigns may be arrived at; and this examination has suggested as a general, though not an unvarying rule, that the coins upon which the name is expressed by EDW. belong to Edward I.; that those with EDWARDVS at full belong to Edward III., and all intermediate modes to Edward II.*

It is generally supposed that Edward I. coined the first groats, or fourpenny pieces; if so, very few were put into circulation, and the specimen No. 79, if belonging to this reign, was certainly only a pattern, and not one of the current pieces, as the only specimens known of it vary so considerably in weight (from 80 to 138 grs.) as to preclude the possibility of their having been current coins. It has the king's front face, or rather the front face of a king, crowned, with the perfect form of the fleur-de-luced crown, or *crown fleurie*, and the draperies at the neck fastened with a rosette. The whole bust is enclosed in a *quatre foil* compartment, surrounded by the legend, "Edwardus di gra Rex. Angl.;" the reverse has an ornamented cross *(fleuri)* with the three pellets in the angles, extending to the edge of the coin. Immediately round the pellets are the words, "Londonia civi;" and the exterior legend is, "DNS

* See Hawkins' Silver Coins.

HIBNE. DVX. AQVI." (lord of Ireland, and duke of Aquitaine). Some authors have ascribed these groats to Edward III., when the first extensive issue of them took place, and the name at full length seems somewhat to justify this view; but the drapery of the neck, while the neck is invariably bare on those coins of Edward III., seems to favour the first hypothesis.

The pennies of this reign (No. 80) have the head without the *quatre foil* ornament, and the legend, "Edw. R." or Rex "Angl. Dns. Hyb.;" the reverse of the specimen has the cross and pellets, with "Civitas London;" some have "Villa," as villa Berevvici (Berwick).

Some of the pennies (No. 81) of this reign show the head in a triangle, like the Irish coins of John. Halfpennies and farthings are, for the first time, found pretty plentifully. The specimen (No. 82) is a farthing, being the same as the penny, with the exception of the omission of the circle of beading round the head. Up to this reign it is supposed, as before mentioned, that halfpennies and farthings were formed by cutting the pennies into two or four, an operation performed at the Mint, coins having been found in quantities so cut, that had evidently never been circulated.

Edward II. (1307 to 1327). The coinage remained of the same weight and standard as in the previous reign. There is no record of the coinage of groats, but the penny (No. 83) has the same types as those of the preceding reign, and has for legend EDWAR. R. ANG. DNS. HYB., and on the reverse, "Civitas London."

Edward III. (1327 to 1377.)



THE silver coinage of this reign are groats and half-groats, pennies, halfpennies, and farthings. It will be seen that the title of King of *France* is assumed on groats of this king, and this, with other peculiarities, go to prove that the groat previously mentioned must either have been an essay or pattern made very early in the reign before the assumption of that title, or, which is most probable, that it really belongs to the reign of his grandfather. The groat of this reign

(No. 84) begins to exhibit, permanently, those characters of the art of the period which had been first shown in the supposed groat of Edward I.; but in this and the succeeding reigns the head is enclosed in a compartment framed of a tressure of nine small arches instead of four, terminating at their junction in a trefoil exactly in the same feeling of ornament as much of the decorative portion of the architecture of the time. It is an ornament, however, though new to the English coinage, that had previously appeared on that of France. The words "Dei Gratia" were adopted for the first time on English coins in this reign; first on the gold goin, and afterwards on the groats, though it had appeared on the great seal since William I., and on the coins of France, with more or less variation, since the time of Charlemagne, who seems to have adopted "Christianity" as his watchword. For on the reverse of his coins the words "*Christiana religio*" appear, and on others he was styled "Karolus Augustus *a Deo coronatus*," &c. Some of his successors adopted "Misericordia Dei," &c.; but "Dei Gratia" became general on the French coins long before it was introduced in England.*

The *groat* (No. 84); the legend on the groat of Edward III. stands "Edward. D. G. Rex Angl. z. France. D. Hyb.;" the title of King of France having been assumed in 1389. The reverse of this groat of Edward III. has the plain cross extending to the edge of the coin, with the three pellets in the angles, and exhibiting, for the first time, the motto, "posui Deum ajutorem meum," slightly abbreviated; in an inner circle is "London civitas." The half-groat is the same, with the omission of France in the legend of the obverse. The coinages of some towns have their mint mark in one angle of the cross, instead of the three pellets.

Pennies.—The weight of the silver coinage was first seriously reduced in this reign; first, from the previous general average of about 22 or 22½ grs. to 20½, then to 20, and eventually to 18.†

* Folkes observes, speaking of the gold coins of Edward III., "Dei Gratia" was now used for the first time; but there are, as stated, some previous examples in England, as well as the general previous use of it on the coins of France.

† Edward II. had previously coined 43 out of the silver before used for 40.

The specimen No. 85 has the motto "Edwardus Rex Angli," and the reverse "Civitas Eboraci" (York); the halfpence and farthings are similar to the pennies, but having the legends shortened for the space; some have only "Edwardus Rex;" some farthings have only "E. R. Angl. D. H."



THE great feature in the coinage of this reign is formed by the noble gold issue, said by English writers to be superior to any of the cotemporary gold coins of Europe. It may be considered our first gold coinage, as the attempt in the reign of Henry III. was too partial to take the first rank from the extensive and beautiful issue now effected. It was first determined, after much deliberation, that three monies of gold were to be made, to be current at 6s., 3s., and 1s. 6d. The first was to have two leopards,* the second a mantle, with the arms of England and France, and the small one a helmet, &c.; being called florins, half florins, and quarter florins, a name derived from an early gold coin of *Florence*, which had been copied in several countries in Europe, and bequeathed the name of its parent city to many gold coins of other countries, after its original value and devices had disappeared. But though Edward had adopted the name, it will be admitted that the devices and values were original and national. No. 86 is a specimen of a quarter florin. It was found that this first gold coinage was rated too high, and was therefore soon recalled; consequently specimens are very rare.

Another gold coinage was then determined upon (the famous one of the Nobles), and the coins then produced were not named after a place of mintage, like some of the gold coins of other nations, but it is supposed by an old writer, after the *noble* metal of which they were composed; or from their superior execution, weight, and purity; being said to be superior to any gold coins of the period in

* These leopards were lions, but so termed in continental heraldry. See Ruding, vol. ii. p. 163.

Europe: but this remark can only apply to their weight and purity. The pieces were called nobles, half-nobles, and quarter-nobles; the nobles passing as 6s. 8d. It appears singular that they did not derive their name from the ship forming part of their device, when not in use on any other European coins. Some imagine that this device must, from its singularity, have been adopted in commemoration of the great naval victory of Midsummer eve (1340), when two French admirals and 30,000 men were slain, and 230 of their large ships taken, with small loss on the part of the English. But the ship is the well-known Roman symbol of "the State;" and it seems possible that the king at the helm of the State may have been intended in this striking device—for striking it is, both in design and execution, and is the first example of anything like the best contemporaneous art being applied to the English coinage. There are other conjectures respecting this device too numerous to describe; one, however, as a very ancient one, may be mentioned, though evidently incorrect. Edward claimed sovereignty of the seas in 1359, fifteen years subsequent to the issue of these coins, and yet the old poet sings:*—

> But king Edward made a siege royall,
> And wonne the town, and in speciall
> The sea was kept, and thereof he was lord;
> Thus made he nobles coins of record.

The legend is, "Edward Dei Gra. Rex Anglo., et Franc. D. Hyb.;" the reverse a rich cross fleurie,† with lions under crowns in the angles; and the legend, "Ihc autem transiens p. medium illorum iba." (Jesus autem transiens per medium illorum ibat). These words ‡ had been used as a talisman of preservation in battle, and also against thieves; the latter case, a spell against thieves, says the

* Selden, reign of Henry VI.

† Copied from the "ecus d'or," or "royal" of his rival, Philip of Valois, whose several gold coins were finely executed, especially the Florin George, where the figure is much finer than even that on the George Noble of Henry VIII., executed nearly two hundred years later.

‡ Luke, ch. iv. ver. 30.

Richard II. (1377 to 1399).



THE silver coins of Richard (groats, half-groats, pennies, halfpence, and farthings) are so precisely similar to those of his grandfather, Edward III, that I only give one specimen, No. 89: the motto is "Ricard. Di. Gra. Rex. Angl. z. Francia." The reverse has the same legend as the preceding reign. His gold coins are precisely similar also to those of his predecessor; so that a half-noble will form a sufficient sample; it is No. 90.

Henry IV. (1399 to 1413).



THE coins of the four Henries, who now succeeded each other, are very difficult to distinguish. These princes issued coins of precisely the same type without any numerals after the name, till Henry the VIIth, in the eighteenth year of his reign, added the "VII" in the legend. There is, however, a tolerably secure guide for determining the pennies of Henry IV. In the early part of his reign they were of the weight of those of his two predecessors—namely 18 grs.; but in the thirteenth year of his reign they were reduced to 15, and the other silver coins in proportion: any penny of 15 grs., therefore, of the proper type, is pretty certainly of Henry IV. The groats may also be tested by a proportionate rule. Halfpence and farthings were also coined in this reign; but as their weight was never very carefully adjusted, it is difficult to separate those belonging to the first thirteen years of this king. The specimen of his heavy money is No. 91; the legend is, "Henric Di. Gra. Rex Angl. D. H."—the reverse as in preceding reign. His gold coins are nobles, half-nobles, and quarter-nobles, which do not differ from those of his predecessors, but may be distinguished from those of his successors, by the arms of France, semé of fleurs-de-lis, instead of being charged with three only, as was afterwards the custom. The specimen No. 92 is a quarter-noble.

COINS OF THE KINGS OF ENGLAND
FROM RICH.D II TO RICH.D III.



Henry V. (1413 to 1422), and Henry VI. (1422 to 1461).



THE coins of these reigns, both of gold and silver, are tolerably plentiful, but most of them must be attributed to the very extensive coinage at the beginning of the reign of Henry VI. It appears extraordinary that the regent Bedford, whose taste for the fine arts is exhibited in the magnificently illuminated books executed for him, and of which several are in existence and in beautiful preservation, should not have attempted, in the plenitude of his vast power, which extended over both England and France, some further improvement in the style of the coinage. He did not, however, turn his taste for the arts in that direction, but followed exactly the old types. This appears the more extraordinary, as the coins struck in France of this reign, after the king's coronation, as sovereign of both countries, are quite equal to those of the previous and immediately succeeding kings of France; especially the "*Franc d'or*," having the king on horseback, beautifully executed on the obverse. The silver pieces, too, struck in France, where the silver coinage had not been latterly much in advance of our own, was now much improved; and on the "*grand blanc*" two shields appeared—the one bearing the arms of France, the other those of France and England; being nearly a century earlier than the royal arms appeared on English silver coins.

The English coins of the two kings above named (Henry V. and VI.), are quite indistinguishable, notwithstanding certain very ingenious suggestions for their separation. The only specimen of silver I give is therefore a groat (No. 93). It has a "V" after "Rex," which may cause it to be assigned to Henry V. There were half-groats, pennies, halfpennies, and farthings of these two reigns. The gold coins are, as before, nobles, half-nobles, and gold farthings (or quarter-nobles). They are scarcely distinguishable from those of his predecessor and successor. The specimen No. 94 is a half-noble. Their Anglo-Gallic coins are better ascertained, but they do not find a place here. I have not given an angel, as Henry VI. did

not coin angels till during his short restoration, and they were in close imitation of those of Edward IV.

In this reign (Henry VI.) the restrictions on the freedom of commerce, with the view of keeping the bullion in the country, were rendered still more stringent; the foreign merchant was compelled to *reside* during his stay with a person appointed, who took notes of all his bargains, causing him to outlay all monies received in British products, and receiving by way of salary a tax of 2d. in the pound upon all bargains so made.

Edward IV. (1461 to 1483). The coins of this king are exactly like those of the several preceding reigns, with the exception, in some cases, of some marks or letters on the field or breast. The specimen (a groat) No. 95, has a quatre foil on each side of the neck, a crescent on the breast, and an annulet preceding, and a rose terminating the legend, "Edward Di. Gra. Rex. Angl. z. Franc.;" the reverse, which I have not thought it necessary to give, has, as in the previous reigns, "Posui," &c. He reduced the weight of the penny, after his fourteenth year, to 12 grains. A great variety of his coins of different mints exist, but all of one type, only varying in mint marks and names of places of mintage.

On account of several changes that took place, the gold coinage of this reign is more interesting than any since Edward III.



HE first gold coinage established the nobles to pass at 8s. 4d.; by which it will be easily perceived that the value of the precious metals was now rapidly rising, and that less gold and silver was put into coins, the nominal value of which remained the same; or, as in the case of the nobles above-mentioned, the nominal value of the coin was increased in accordance with the raised price of the metal.

In another coinage a better price was given for bullion at the Mint, to ensure a supply, for it had become scarce; and the weak king had recourse, about 1455, to the assistance of the alchymists, announcing, with confidence, that he soon should be able to pay his debts with gold and silver produced by "the stone." The additional price offered at the Mint, however, produced gold faster

than "the stone," and a new issue of nobles took place, fifty being made out of the pound weight. Shortly afterwards this proportion was changed, and only forty-five were coined out of the pound weight; but they were to pass for 10s., and to be called *rials*, to distinguish them from the old nobles—a name borrowed from the French, who had coins called rials (royals), in consequence of their bearing the effigy of the king in his royal robes. In the case of the English coins, the name was less applicable, as they bore the same device, or nearly so, as the old nobles.



THE angels and half angels were new gold coins, so called from having the archangel Michael piercing a dragon with a spear. The reverse has a ship, with a large cross for the mast; the letter E on the right side, and a rose on the left; against the ship is a shield with the usual arms. The specimen is No. 96. The motto on the reverse of the half-angel was *O crux ave spes unica*. This coin was probably intended to replace the old noble, superseded by the rial. The nobles and rials differ but slightly from the nobles of previous reigns, with the exception of having the central portion of the cross fleurie of the reverse replaced by a sun, the badge of the king. Still further encroachments were perpetrated in this reign against the liberty of both the foreign and British merchant, principally with a view to prevent the exportation of coin.

Of **Edward V.** there are no coins known.

Richard III. (1483 to 1485). In the two years of his brief but energetic reign he contrived to issue a considerable coinage; but his coins are, nevertheless, more or less rare. Their type is precisely similar to those of his predecessors, and the proportion of 12 grains to the penny was the standard of weight. The specimen (No. 97) is the obverse of a groat, having "Ricard. Di. Gra. Rex. Angl. z. Franc." with his crest (the boar's head) for the London mint mark. The reverse as before, with the motto "Posui," &c. He issued groats, half-groats, pennies, and halfpence: no farthings have yet been found. His gold coins are precisely similar to those of Edward; it is therefore unnecessary to give a specimen. Angelets, or half-angels, have sometimes the mint mark of a boar's head, like the groat.

Chapter VIII.

Coins of the English Sovereigns.

(From Henry VII. to Mary.)—Henry VII.

(1485 to 1509.)



HE groats, pennies, &c., of the first portion of this reign continued the same as in the previous one, and have all till recently been confounded with those of Henry VI. The sagacious ingenuity of a numismatist,* by referring carefully to the episcopal mint marks, has at last solved the difficulty by discovering on a York penny that of Thomas Rotherham, archbishop, who did not possess the see of York till 1480, while Henry VI. died in 1461. The mark is T. on the one side of the neck, and a key on the other. The pennies with that mark are therefore indubitably those of Henry VII. Specimen 98 is a groat, now in the British Museum, which has been assigned to Henry VII. The reverse is exactly similar to those of previous reigns; weight forty-eight grains. Now, as the pennies of Henry VI. were only reduced to twelve grains during the very short period of his restoration, it is very improbable that all the groats corresponding to that weight should belong to that short period, and therefore this coin, from that and other causes, has been assigned to Henry VII. Specimen 99 is one of the York pennies with the mint mark of Thomas Rotherham, T. on one

* Mr. Cuff.


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side of the neck, and some ornament (it is said a fleur-de-lis) on the other.

In the second style of coinage of this reign, the design of the crown is changed from the open crown of fleur-de-lis, of his own previous coins, and of those of so many of his predecessors, to an arched crown, sometimes called an imperial crown. It has also been stated that there is some attempt at a portrait in the full face; but this I am not able to discover. This coinage is of course easily distinguished from those of the previous reigns. The specimen (100) is a groat of this coinage; it shows the usual motto, but the tressure is enriched with small roses in the angles or spandrils. The reverse is precisely as before.

THE other groats of this period vary in the number and richness of the tressures which surround the head, and also in the style of the crown, though always arched. The reverses still continued to be of the old type.

Specimen 101 is a penny, having the arched crown; in the motto France is omitted. The reverses also still continued the old type, or nearly so. Folkes mentions a piece of this period (at Cambridge), which appears to have been a trial for a twenty-penny piece.

THE eighteenth year of his reign (1503) was marked by an entirely new coinage, in which the silver coins for the first time received some attention as to their artistic execution; a positive portrait profile being attempted, and in fact very fairly executed. The shield with the royal arms was now first adopted for the reverse; and in short, the model, of which the types of the coinage of our own times have been but a modification, was now first adopted.

THIS was the most florid and decorative period of mediæval art; the English version of (so termed) *Gothic* art, had attained its highest degree of complication and somewhat over-loaded richness in the king's celebrated chapel at Westminster—as in France, somewhat earlier, it had taken a similar direction, but towards a still more overwrought character, combined however with greater boldness, which has earned for it, in architecture, the title of *Gothique flamboyant*. Other arts besides that of architecture were rapidly assuming, if I may use the term, an intensely decorative character, especially those of the goldsmith, and the book decorator or illuminator, which latter art now reached its zenith; and we must not overlook the intricate monuments of iron-work of the celebrated blacksmith of Antwerp.

It is not surprising, therefore, that a change at last took place in the style of the coinage, but rather that it did not take place before; and that when it did it was not more in the rich, highly wrought style of the general art of the period.

We know by the great seals of the respective monarchs, at all events since Edward III., that there were artists at command who could design and execute intricate models suited to coins; such as the sovereign in regal robes, sitting beneath a rich canopy, surrounded by the emblems of state;* and on the continent such devices had long been placed upon coins. It was not till this reign that in England anything like the rich device of the great seals was transferred to our coins. But a similar design now first appeared on the new large gold coin of this reign called the sovereign.

THE most remarkable feature in the new silver coinage was the shilling, now first coined about the 18th year of this reign; and which thus, at last, "had a local habitation" as well as "name;" for

* The seal of Edward III. forms the centre of some of the capital letters in this volume, one of which is at the head of the following chapter.

before, as has been stated, the term *shilling* had been one of "money of account," and not that of a real coin.



Of groats, half-groats, and pennies (but no halfpennies or farthings), there was also an issue on this new coinage. No. 102 is a specimen of the shilling, having "Henric. VII.* Di. Gra. Rex. Angl. Z. Fr.," and is the first instance of numerals following the name since Henry III., whose coins are a nearly solitary instance of its occurrence in the earlier periods. Sometimes this coinage has Sept. instead of VII. No. 103 is a half-groat, exactly resembling the groat and shillings, except in the absence of the numerals or "Sept." after the name.

No. 104 is a penny, having the king seated on a throne, as on the gold double rials or sovereigns, with simply "Henric. Di. Gra. Rex."

The reverse has the arms, &c. The pennies that appear with this device are of the ecclesiastical mints; it is a Durham penny, having the initials of Dunelmensis Sherwood, the bishop, and the upper limb of the cross turned into a crozier on the reverse.

It will be seen that the name of the place of mintage was omitted in the third class of coins of this reign, in the inner circle of the reverse of the shilling, groats, and half-groats, but continued as the legend on the reverse of the smaller pieces.

The great feature of the gold coins of this reign is, that Henry VII. first coined the double rial (or royal). Twenty-two and a half such pieces to be coined out of the pound weight tower.



On this piece the king is represented in the royal robes as on the rials of France, and it thus might receive the name more legitimately than those of Edward IV.; but to distinguish it from the previous rial, it was determined to call it a "sovereign," a term which disappeared after a few reigns, not to be again adopted till the great new coinage of 1817. The title on the obverse is, "Henricus Dei Gracia rex Anglie et Francie, Dns Ibar." Specimen No. 105.

* In this instance it is *septim*, and not VII.



N the reverse of this piece the last trace of the old cross fleurie of the nobles of Edward III. disappeared, and a tressure of ten arches encloses the heraldic rose, in the centre of which is placed a shield with the arms. (Specimen 106.) There are other varieties of this reverse, some having the shield surmounted by a crown, in which case the rose occupies the whole field, to the exclusion of the tressures; in another case, the rose, though larger than in our specimen, is somewhat less than the last mentioned, and differently arranged. Specimen 107 is the reverse of a half-sovereign, peculiar from having only the arms of France. The obverse has the king in a ship with two flags, one bearing the letter H, and the other the English dragon. Specimen 108 shows the obverse and reverse of a half-angel, differing little from those of Edward IV.

The avarice of the king caused much light money to be made, and many pieces also got clipped, so that there were great complaints. This business was rectified in a rather summary manner, for it was therefore enacted that no person should refuse the king's coin, if good gold and silver, on account of thinness, on pain of imprisonment or *death*. By the year 1509 he had through this mode of working the coinage, and by imposing extravagant fines and other extortion, collected greater riches than had ever before been possessed by an English king. The last of the stringent commercial regulations referring to the bullion was passed in this reign, which referred to the "royal exchangers;" persons through whose hands all bills of exchange were compelled to pass for adjustment.

Henry VIII. (1509 to 1547.)



HE silver coinage of this reign may be divided into five classes; the first exactly resembles the third coinage of his father, even the head being the same; the numerals alone were altered from VII. to VIII. The farthings of this coinage are very rare.

COINS OF HENRY VIII.




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The second coinage has a likeness of the king in profile, which may easily be distinguished, as he appears both younger and fatter than his father, the reverse remaining the same. The half-groats are similar, but those of York have Wolsey's initials, and the cardinal's hat on the reverse. The pennies have the king on the throne, with the motto "Rosa sine spina." The halfpennies have still the old cross and pellets, and the farthings, like those of his first coinage, have the portcullis, which for the first time appears on the coins in this reign. There are other varieties of the coinage of this epoch, but more rare.



IN the third coinage of this reign the weight of the penny was reduced to 10 grains, and other silver coins in proportion, and a great increase of alloy (2 oz. in 12) was used; but the execution of this coinage was bold and striking; it consisted of shillings, pence, and halfpence, groats, and half-groats; on these coins the king has a front or three-quarter face, an excellent likeness, especially on the shillings, or testoons as they were named; the reverse of which was a large rose and a crown, a very handsome device; the old motto "Posui," &c., being still preserved. The groats and smaller pieces have the old reverses, the halfpennies still preserving the ancient type of the cross and pellets.



THE types continued the same on the fourth coinage but an infamous degree of debasement took place;* the pennies being of the same weight (10 grains), but the alloy increased to the amount of half alloy to half silver. The fifth coinage, in the following year, was still more debased, and the motto on the groats was changed to "redde cuique quod suum est;" which was, however, not meant satirically.

* These base coins having the full face of the king, soon began to show the inferior metal at the end of the nose, the most prominent part; and hence the sobriquet, "Old Copper Nose."

reigns; the motto on the reverse is "*per cruce tua salva nos. X. Re rede*," more or less abbreviated.

109 is a gold crown, differing from the half-crown next described.

115 is one of the gold half-crowns with rose and crown with H. R. in the field, and the legend Henric. 8. Dei. Gra., &c., on the obverse; and on the reverse "*rutilans rosa sine spina.*"

In this reign the pound troy superseded the pound tower in the Mint, and the standard of gold was settled, which has ever since been termed crown gold. It was in the latter years of this reign more debased, but the standard, which has since been called crown gold, was 22 carats fine, to 2 carats alloy. The excessive debasement of the silver coin in this reign was the first blow struck against the oppressive regulations passed in previous reigns, with a view to prevent the export of coin; for it caused foreigners to prefer merchandize or bills of exchange, which thus at once rendered the whole oppressive machinery useless, except the office of royal exchanger; against whose interference the elder Gresham* pleaded so wisely and so boldly, that the stern and obstinate Tudor listened and refrained, and the office became nearly a dead letter.

Edward VI. (1547 to 1553.)

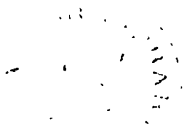


HIS prince was little more than nine years of age when he ascended the throne, but in the journal which he kept, in his own writing, and which is still preserved in the British Museum, he makes several entries respecting the coinage, which show that he had been taught to appreciate the subject. It was determined that the base state in which Henry VIII. had left the coinage should be remedied, but an honest way of going about it does not appear to have occurred either to the youthful king or his ministers. The first silver coinage he issued was of the same low standard as the last of the previous reign; viz., 4 oz. of silver to 8 oz. of alloy, and the penny was only of 10 grains.

* Father of the builder of the Royal Exchange.


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Of this issue there were also testoons, groats, half-groats, pennies, halfpennies, and farthings; but groats, half-groats, and pennies, only are known. They have a well-executed profile of the king, and the reverse has the arms traversed by a cross; the motto as before. The penny has the legend "E. D. G. rosa sine spina" variously abbreviated. In the third year of the reign there was an attempt to improve the coinage by issuing shillings of 5 to 6 oz. alloy. They have the king's profile, crowned, not very different from the previous groats, but in the legend have the Roman numerals VI. instead of the Arabic 6, as in the groats, and the reverse has, for the first time, an oval shield without a cross, decorated in a style of ornament which then began to supersede the (so called) Gothic feeling, a further modification of which has since been termed "Elizabethan;" the motto was "Timor Domini fons vite;"* MDXLIV. round the head, and the name and titles on the reverse; but some had the name and titles round the head, and "Inimicos ejus induam confusione," (Psalm cxxxii. verse 19.) The date being now introduced for the first time on an English coin.

This issue seems rather to have added to the confusion. Testoons were cried down to ninepence, other coins in proportion, robbing the public to the amount of one-fourth of the original value of the silver coinage; subsequently the shillings were cried down to sixpence, and eventually, in the reign of Elizabeth, these base shillings were marked with a particular mint mark (a portcullis in some cases), and ordered to pass for fourpence-halfpenny; so that, in the end, a public fraud of three-fourths of the amount of the base coinage was effected. This direct swindling of a people is rather alarming to contemplate even at a distance, but is happily rendered impossible in our own more fortunate times.

The confusion in the value of the precious metals, at this time, appears to have been extreme, silver being rated at 12s. the ounce, and gold at only 60s., so that gold was only rated as five times

* From Proverbs xiv. verse 27.

appeared on the shillings and threepenny pieces, namely, a nearly full face of the king, in parliament robes, with the collar of the Garter, and the numerals VI. on the field, to denote its value—the shillings having XII., and the threepences III.; being the first time the value of the coins was so marked: and, on the reverse, the arms, with the cross and the motto, "Posui," &c.

The London pennies of baser silver, coined at this time, had the king on a throne, with "E. D. G. Rosa sine Sp.:" and, on the reverse, the arms, with "Civitas London." The York pennies had a simple rose, with "Rosa," &c. The reverse like the London ones, but with "Civitas Eboraci."

The whole of the coins had various mint marks—the tun, the rose, a swan, &c.

No. 120 is the obverse of a York penny.



Of the gold coinage of this reign it may be said, that our gold had never been so much debased. It was remarkable, however, in the later issues, for its improvement in execution, and the complete disappearance of the *Gothic* feeling of art. The earlier issue of double sovereigns, sovereigns, and angels, closely resembled the sovereigns and angels of the previous reign; too closely to render an example necessary, yet distinguished easily by the name, &c. In the subsequent coinages, of which the specimens given are examples, the gold coins assumed a new, and, artistically considered, superior character, if not quite so picturesque.

Different standards of gold continued to be used after the reform of the coinage: for instance, a pound weight of gold, of 28 carats fine to 1 carat alloy, was coined into twenty-four sovereigns of 30 shillings, equal to 36 sovereigns of 20 shillings each; while a pound weight of gold, of 22 carats fine to 2 carats alloy, was coined into 33 sovereigns of 20 shillings each.

Specimen 121 is a treble sovereign. It has the king enthroned (the Gothic character having quite disappeared), with the usual name and title: the reverse has the arms, supported by a lion and a dragon standing on a scrolled ornament, in the new style, with the

letters E. R., the motto being still the old one of Edward III.—"Jesus autem," &c.

Specimen No. 122 is a half-sovereign of a still later coinage, of the pattern of which sovereigns, half-sovereigns, five-shilling pieces, and two-shilling-and-sixpenny pieces were coined; the sovereign only differing in having supporters like the previous sovereigns, and the other pieces having arms, with E. R. on either side, as in the half-sovereign given as a specimen. The mottos on the sovereigns and half-sovereigns are "Jesus autem," &c.; on the crown, "Scutum fidei proteget eum;" and on the half-crown the same, abbreviated. The three-quarter figure of the king, in embossed armour, on these pieces, is very elegant, and rather in the Italian style of art of this period, a feeling which is confined to this reign, and does not re-appear. It is still more finely shown on the six-angel piece.

No. 123 is a crown, having the king's bust in armour, and bare-headed, on the obverse: and on the reverse, the crowned rose, as shown. The half-crown of this type had the rose, without stalk. There are also sovereigns, half-sovereigns, crowns, and half-crowns, with the same bust, but having the oval shield (like the shillings) on the reverse. There is also another series, like the last mentioned, but with the head crowned.

No. 124 is a six-angel piece of beautiful workmanship; the figure of the angel is quite in the high Italian school, and might almost be termed Raffaelesque. The reverse, instead of an old ship or galley of the time of Edward III., accurately copied on some gold pieces up to this period, with a man whose scale reduces the ship to about the dimensions of a slipper-bath, has a fine ship of the sixteenth century, the grand original type of our three-deckers of the present day. It has a shield, with the royal arms, on the side, behind which is a figure approaching to a proper proportion, and other figures are seen in the rigging, giving due effect to the dimensions of the vessel. This is, perhaps, the finest piece in the annals of English coinage, prior to the reform and introduction of the mill and screw under the government of Cromwell; it is, however, only a pattern, and as *coin* was never issued.

MARY (1553 to 1558), on her accession, declared her *intention* of restoring the old standard in the silver coinage, namely, 11 oz.

2 dwt. fine to 18 dwt. alloy; but, instead of that, the new coinage fell 1 dwt. lower that the last coinages of Edward VI. On her first coins she is represented in profile, and crowned, and styled "Maria D. G. Ang. Fra. Z. Hib. Regi.;" and the motto of the reverse is frequently "Veritas temporis filia"—("Truth is the daughter of Time"), suggested, it is supposed, by the Romish priesthood, in allusion to the restoration of the Roman Catholic faith, after its suppression during two reigns. On her first coins, subsequent to her marriage with Philip of Spain, the queen's head appears crowned as before, with the legend "Philip Z. Maria D. G. Rex et Regina." Soon afterwards, however, a coinage was issued, partly, no doubt, from the treasure brought over by Philip, and sent with so much ostentation to the Tower, on which the bust of Philip appears facing her own: to which Butler alludes in the lines—

> "Still amorous, fond, and billing,
> Like Philip and Mary upon a shilling."

The legend on these coins stood "Philip et Maria D. G. Ang. Fr. Neap. Pr. Hisp.," and on the reverse, the old motto, "Posui," &c., was changed to the plural, as, "Posui*mus* Deum, adjutorem *nostrum*."

There is another pattern shilling having the king's head on one side, and the queen's on the other, with "Philippus Dei G. R. Ang. Fr. Neap. Pr. Hisp.," on one side, and "Maria," with the same titles, on the other; this coin has the date 1554, and the earliest of the above described have the same date; others are dated 1557.

After Philip became King of Spain, by the abdication of his father, the titles of Princes of Spain became inconsistent, and all allusion to foreign dominion was omitted, the legend standing "Philip et Maria D. G. Rex et Regina Ang."

The motto of the reverse remained the same, and the Spanish arms were impaled on the right side, and the English on the left.

Specimen No. 125 is a groat previous to her marriage.

Specimen No. 126 is the shilling, on which the head of the queen occupies one side, and that of the king the other.

Specimen 127 is a shilling, with the busts facing each other.


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There were also coined pennies of strongly alloyed silver, some with the queen's profile, some with the rose; both having the motto, "Rosa sine spina," on the obverse, and the place of mintage on the reverse.

The gold of this reign did not follow out the improvement of style commenced by her predecessor. There were issued sovereigns, to be current at 30 shillings; half-sovereigns, to be called the royal of gold, for 15 shillings; the angel, to be current at 10 shillings; the half-royal, at 5 shillings: it is singular that no traces of Philip appear on the gold coins, except in the inscriptions.

The sovereign (Specimen 128) is a return to the precise style of art of those of Henry VII. and VIII. The rial of gold, or half-sovereign (No. 129), has the old ship, with the figure holding the shield and sword, transformed to a female, and the reverse like similar coins of Edward IV.; while the angels have precisely the old type, rather more coarsely done. Specimen 130 is an angelet, or half-angel. It was, probably, with a strong Roman Catholic feeling, of reducing all things to the state and form they occupied previous to the Reformation, that this retrograde movement in the art, applied to the coinage, took place.

THIS reign and that of Elizabeth left legislative interference with the import and export of coin in a sort of transition state, most of the acts remaining in force, but inactive; and yet the prejudices of the commercial interest of the country were, from sheer habit, favourable to their retention. It may save trouble to mention, at once, that in the reign of James I. the last part of this machinery, that of the office of royal exchanger, was swept away, the Burleighs having held it as a sinecuré; for public opinion had changed, and its mischievous as well as troublesome tendency became evident to all.

Chapter IX.

English Coins.

(From Elizabeth to Charles.)

(1558 to 1602.)



THE complete restoration of the integrity of the currency is justly ascribed to Elizabeth, although she only gave the finishing hand to what had been already commenced by her brother. She not only ascertained the amount of silver in the base money, and caused it to be stamped and pass for its true value, (a course which involved loss to the nation and gain to the government, which received back as 2½d. that which it had issued as 12d., for which, perhaps, we do not owe her much gratitude), but she likewise produced a coinage scrupulously corresponding in weight and purity to its nominal value—with the exception, of course, of a deduction for that rate of profit or seignorage which had always been considered the fair privilege of the sovereign. It would appear, however, from the discovery of letters, &c. &c. in the State-paper Office,* that we are chiefly indebted for the originating and carrying out of this great measure to a London merchant—the same illustrious Gresham to whom the city owes its Royal Exchange and other useful institutions. It would appear that some difficulties

* Discovered by Mr. Burgon.


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occurred as to the mode of refining the base metal of which the existing silver coinage was composed, and Gresham, during his residence in Antwerp, effected arrangements with a great firm in that city for refining the whole for the remuneration of ¾ oz. per pound of silver, for all the silver refined, and also the whole of the copper contained in it. The following is an extract from one of his letters, introducing one of the Flemish merchants to Sir Thomas Parry, treasurer of the Queen's household :—"Albeit the enterprise is of great importance, and the sooner it is put in hand the more honour and proffyt it wolle be to the Quene's Majestie and the realme; for, doughtless, this will rayse the exchange to xxv. viiid. at the least."

Thus it would appear that the great cause of the very effectual reform of the coinage, was the growing wants of our rapidly extending commerce, represented and advocated by the acute genius of Gresham. But no mention is of course made of him, on the medal struck in honour of the queen, to commemorate the event. Of the final return to good money, however, she should at least have shared the honours with her brother, Edward VI., by whom the good work was at last fairly begun, Elizabeth only putting the completing hand to it. But she saw, no doubt, the eventual* popularity that would accrue to her from connexion with such a measure, and therefore made herself as conspicuous in it as possible, even going to the Tower and coining pieces of fine money with her own hand, which she graciously distributed to those immediately around her.



HER coinage of her first three years consisted of shillings, groats, half-groats, and pennies, which were of the same fineness as the last of the preceding reign. But inconvenience being felt for want of small money, she soon after issued a coinage of sixpences, threepences, three-halfpences, and three-farthings, of the full old English standard of 11 oz. 2 dwts. fine silver, to 18 dwts. alloy.

* It was unpopular at the time, and no wonder, from the mode of carrying it into execution, by compelling every man to give up for 2½d. the shilling for which he had given 12d.

of gold and silver so produced, by the melting certain small quantities of the same against equal weights taken from the respective trial pieces of gold and silver that are deposited and kept in the exchequer for that use. This is called the trial of the pix; the report made by the jury upon that trial is called the verdict of the pix for the time. But to return to the milled money:—Folkes says, "The maker of this milled money is reported to have been one Philip Mastrelle, a Frenchman, who eventually, however, fell into the practice of coining counterfeit money, and was convicted, and executed at Tyburn, on the 27th of January, 1569." But Mr. Hawkins does not place any reliance upon this statement, and asserts that the name of the introducer of this process is unknown, and the whole history of its employment involved in obscurity. The principal feature in the new method was the power of ornamenting the edges of the coins; but the whole appearance of the money so produced was more workmanlike. Most of the milled coins in this reign may be distinguished by a star of five points at the end of the legend. Some patterns of half-crowns exist of the coinage between 1561 and 1575, but none were issued till 1601 and 1602, which are very handsome coins, and the first large silver that had been coined since the death of Edward VI. There are also shillings, sixpences, half-groats, pennies, and half-pennies of this coinage. It was in 1601 that silver coin was again reduced in weight, and, as Folkes tells us, the same standard of value was then adopted which has been ever since retained.



In some of the coins of Elizabeth are found stamped the arms of Zealand; others have H for Holland; both which are supposed to have been so stamped for subsidies taken to the Low Countries by Leicester.

The East India merchants were also allowed to coin what have been called *crowns*, *half-crowns*, and *shillings*, for circulation in their foreign dealings, but which were, in fact, struck to accord with the weight of the Spanish piastre; the half, the quarter, and the half-quarter of the same. These coins have been called the portcullis

money, from a large portcullis occupying the whole of the reverse. They are handsome pieces, but do not come under the head of English coins of the realm.

The silver coins of Elizabeth, of which I have given specimens, are the following :—

Specimen 131, one of the first or hammered shillings, having the profile young-looking, and crowned, with Elizab. D. G. Ang. Fr. et Hib. Regi, and on the reverse the arms traversed by the cross, with the old motto, "Posui," &c.; the oval shield of Edward VI., without the cross, not appearing on any of the coins of this reign.

Specimen 132 is one of the three-halfpenny pieces, with the rose behind the head, having "E. G. D. rosa sine spina;" the reverse, with arms like her other coins, has also the date (for the first time on small pieces), and civitas, London. The threepence is exactly the same, but the sixpence has the queen's titles round the head.

Specimen 133, the three-farthing piece.

Specimen 134, the penny of her first year (with the date).

Specimen 135 is a halfpenny.

Specimen 136 is one of the *milled* shillings, with the broad cross.

Specimen 137 is a five-shilling piece.

It will appear extraordinary that, notwithstanding the restoration of the English coinage, base money was still coined for Ireland; as though unfairness and oppression towards that unfortunate country had really formed part of a positive system with the English government.



THE gold coins of this reign do not vary much from those of Mary. There was the double rial with the queen on the throne, and the rose reverse, with the arms in the centre. The rial with the queen in the ship, and the reverse still like the old noble.

There were two standards of gold: one called the old standard, 23¼ carats fine to half a carat alloy, one pound weight of which was to be coined into 24 sovereigns of 30s. (equal to 36 of 20s.) Another standard of 22 carats fine, to two carats of alloy (crown

gold), of which the pound weight was to be coined into only 33 sovereigns of 20s. Afterwards, about 10s. more was made from the pound of each standard.



THE angels, half-angels, and quarter-angels, were similar to those of Mary and her predecessors, but rather better executed than those of Mary. The only new artistic feature of the gold coinage of this reign being sovereigns, half-sovereigns, quarter-sovereigns, half-quarter-sovereigns, of a new type.

Our specimen 138 is a half-sovereign of the new type. The profile of the queen crowned, with Elizabeth, D. G. F. Angra. et Hib. regina; the reverse having the royal arms surmounted with a crown, which has the arch indented in the centre, like the modern crown, with E. R. on either side, and the motto, "scutum fidei proteget eam." There are several varieties of this type; some having the line and beading within the legend, others with different forms of the crown, and some having an ermined robe.

Specimen 139 is the rial with the device of the old nobles—the ship, &c.—the reverse being that of Edward IV. with the sun superseding the cross in the centre. It is the handsomest coin of this type that had yet appeared.

Specimen 140 is a half-crown, or half-quarter sovereign, of precisely the same pattern as the half-sovereign (138).

During this reign there was coined, of silver, including the base silver of Ireland, £4,718,579 2*s.* 8½*d.*; of gold, £440,552 8*s.* 9¾*d.*

James I. (1602 to 1625).



THE first silver coins issued by this king, soon after his accession, were crowns, half-crowns, shillings, half-shillings, pieces of two pennies, pennies, and halfpennies.



N the crowns and half-crowns is a figure of the king on horseback, in a similar style to those of Edward VI.; the titles read, "Jacobus D. G. Ang. Sco. Fran. et Hib. Rex."

On the reverse are the arms on a garnished shield, but in the usual form (and not oval, like some of Edward and Mary), having the motto, "exurgat Deus dissipentur inimici."

The arms of Scotland, and also Ireland, were, for the first time, quartered with those of England and France. The shillings and sixpences had the king's bust in profile, crowned, in armour, the legend as on the crowns, and having respectively XII. and VI. behind the head, to denote the value. The twopenny pieces and pennies were the same, with the exception that they had the motto, "Rosa sine spina," and the numerals II. and I. respectively; the reverse having the arms without motto. The halfpennies were like those of Elizabeth, with a cross on one side, and a portcullis on the other. Shillings and sixpences, 9 oz. fine, were now coined for Ireland.

On the second coinage the words Mag. Brit. instead of Ang. Sco. were used, and on the reverses a new and appropriate motto, allusive to the union of the crowns, was used—"Que Deus conjunxit nemo separet." The shillings were the same as the half-crowns and crowns, with the exception of having the king's bust only, instead of the figure on horseback. The twopenny pieces had a rose on one side, and a thistle on the other, crowned with "I. D. G. rosa sine spina" on one side, and "tueatur unita Deus." The pennies had the rose and thistle uncrowned, with the same legends; and the halfpennies the simple rose and thistle without mottoes. These several pieces now continued to be minted without alteration till the end of the reign. There are no dates on the coins of this reign, except on sixpences, a caprice in their favour difficult to explain; but the succession of mint marks is so complete, that every issue is easily distinguished by connoisseurs. Up to June 20, 1605, the fleur-de-lis is the mint mark; up to July 10, 1606, another mark; till June 30, 1607, the escallop shell, and so on, through almost

every remaining year of the reign, a different mark; such as the bunch of grapes, the tower, the ton, the half-moon, &c.

Silver was exceedingly scarce during a part of the reign, and the issue of a light coinage was seriously contemplated, but the scheme was happily abandoned. A good deal of silver was refined from the lead mines of Wales, and coins made from this silver always bore the Welsh feathers to denote the origin of the metal.



IN the suggestions of James, many good regulations were made to prevent clipping and other modes of debasing the coinage, and the charges of mintage were reduced, in order to tempt merchants and others to bring bullion more readily to be coined.

Specimen 141 is a half-crown with the new motto, "Que Deus," &c.; the reverse, being one of those coined from the Welsh silver, with the feathers.

No. 142 is a sixpence of 1622; No. 143 shows both sides of a twopenny piece; No. 144 the rose side of a penny; and No. 145 the thistle side of a halfpenny.



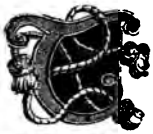
YE first gold coins of James I. were the sovereigns and half-sovereigns, having the king in armour holding the orb and sceptre. The reverse having the arms of England and France with Scotland and Ireland quartered, and the motto, "Exurgat," &c. &c. After the coining of the units—coins of similar value—these pieces were sometimes called sceptre units; the late sovereigns of the above type had the more appropriate motto, "Faciam eos in gentem unam." The double-crown of 10s. is like the half-sovereign, but has on the reverse, "Henricus rosas Regna Jacobus." The British crown of 5s. was similar. The thistle crown of 4s. has the rose of England on one side, and the thistle of Scotland on the other, both crowned, the titles round the rose, with "tueatur unita Deus" round the thistle. There was also a 2s. 6d. piece, with the king's head




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and "J. D. rosa sine spina," and on the reverse the arms, and the same motto as the last: also a crown and half-crown similar, but with "tueatur," &c.



THE pieces coined in Scotland only differed by the arms of Scotland occupying the first place. In the pieces without arms there was no distinction, except the mint mark. In small silver pieces the thistle appears without the rose.

The pound weight of gold, 23¾ carats fine, and ¼ carat alloy, was next coined into 27 rose rials at 30 shillings each, or 54 spur rials at 15 shillings each; or it was made into 81 angels at 10 shillings each. The spur rial has the king standing between the fore and mizen masts of a ship, in armour, crowned, and holding a sword, and on his left arm a large shield, with his arms, &c. &c.; the reverse is the device of the old noble of Edward III., with the exception of the blazing sun substituted for part of the cross by Edward IV., and which now passed as a *spur* royal, from the resemblance of the rays to the rowels of a spur.

The rose rial of 30 shillings was similar to those of the preceding reigns, except that the king appears in the regular parliamentary robes. The motto on the reverse of the rose rial and spur rial is "A. Dno. factum est istud et est mirabile." The angels of this issue were very nearly of the old device. English gold coins being above the standard of value of those of the continent, their value was raised by proclamation as follows:—sovereign, 20 to 22 shillings; double crown, 10 to 11 shillings, and so on in proportion. At the same time regulations were made as to the rates at which foreign gold and silver, in coin and in the ingot, should be purchased. It was next arranged that the pound weight of gold of the old standard of 23¾ carats fine, should now be coined into £44.

It being found that the irregular sums at which the gold coins were now rated was extremely convenient, a new gold coinage was determined on. These coins were to be of the highest standard, now termed angel gold. First, a thirty shilling piece, having the king in

his parliament robes (still called a rial), the figure finely executed in a new style, but the mottos the same; the reverse of the old *rose* rial, however, being abandoned for the royal arms. Second, a fifteen shilling piece of new device, having a lion holding a shield, with the numerals XV., and the titles; and on the reverse the old device of the noble, with the sun of Edward IV., with "A Dno.," &c. Third, a ten shilling piece, or angel, with the old devices of the angel and ship greatly improved, and having the royal arms on the sail, and another pattern having the ship scooped out to receive a large shield with the arms. Of crown gold new units were made, having the king's head laureated in the Roman style—for the first time on modern English coins, and for the reverse, the royal arms, crowned, and the mottos as on the first-mentioned units. These pieces were soon called "laurels." There was a 10 shilling and a 5 shilling of the same pattern. Standard, or angel gold, was now coined into £44 10s., and crown gold into £41.

Specimen 146 is the first, or sceptred unit, of 20 shillings.

Specimen 147 is the rial of 30 shillings after the rose reverse was abandoned; and with the figure of the king in the new style,—a very fine coin.

Specimen 148 is the thistle crown of 4 shillings.

Specimen 149 is the laureated unit.

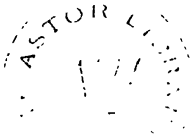
Specimen 150 is the 15 shilling piece, with the sceptred lion device.

Specimen 151 is the reverse of the improved angel, with the arms on the sail.

The first gold coinage of James was of the same standard as those of the last of Elizabeth—namely, the pound weight of gold of 22 carats fine, and 2 alloy, to make 33 sovereigns and a half at 20 shillings each. Next, the pound weight of the same gold was coined into 37 units at 20 shillings each, and a thistle crown of 4 shillings, because the English gold coins had long been of more value than those of other nations, and had been exported for melting—from the true proportion of the relative values of gold and silver not having been properly understood in England.

COINS OF CHARLES I. Pl.




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Charles I. (1625 to 1649).

A coinage was soon issued in this reign of the same purity and weight as those of the last; namely, 7¾ grains to the silver penny, which had been eight grains in the beginning of Elizabeth, but was reduced to the above weight late in her reign. It is remarkable that during the gradual waste of his resources in the civil wars, no debasement in the coinage took place; the very rudest of the coins of Charles, which are termed siege pieces, being of the proper purity and weight.



THE first silver coins of this reign were of the same value and denomination as those of James. Crowns, half-crowns, shillings, half-shillings, twopennies, pennies, and halfpennies; the four large pieces had "Carolus D. G. Mag. Brit. Fra. et Hib. Rex." round a well-executed bust of the king, and the reverse the royal arms, as in the last reign, but with the motto, "Cristo, auspice, regno." Pennies and halfpennies were like those of James, except that they had the rose on both sides, with "C. D. G. Rosa sine spina" on the obverse, and "Jus. Thronum firmat"* on the reverse. But these pennies, &c. were soon followed by others having the king's bust, and the numerals II. and I.; and on the reverse the oval shield, with "justitia Thronum firmat" for motto. The oval shield, somewhat ornamented, was soon after adopted for the larger pieces also, with sometimes C. R. on either side. The shillings and sixpences represent the king in the dress of the day, and three changes of fashion may be traced in them. He is first seen in the stiff ruff, much like that of the reigns of Elizabeth and James, then in a limber or falling one, and, lastly, in a simple falling collar, edged with lace, as we see him in most of his portraits by Vandyke. On some of the pieces of his early coinages he appears in his parliamentary robes, but eventually both these styles disappeared, and he was constantly represented in armour, but with the falling lace collar. The crowns and half-crowns have the king constantly

* Justitia thronum firmat (Justice strengthens a throne).

on horseback, in armour. But the whole coinage of the reign is extremely irregular, both in design and execution, and an immense number of trifling variations occur—far too numerous to allude to in detail within the limits of this volume.

None of the pieces coined in the Tower were dated, but the mint marks afford sure indications of the dates. To January 1625 they are marked with the trefoil, to January 1626 with the fleur-de-lis, and so on. This refers especially to the London coinage; but in this reign there were extensive coinages of silver in various parts of the kingdom even before the troubles. Those of the York mint are very beautifully executed, and have a lion passant guardant for mint mark, also the word "Ebor" (York). It is supposed the York mint was established when Strafford was president of the north, and some were probably coined when the king was at York, during his magnificent progress to Scotland. There was also established a permanent mint in his thirteenth year at Aberystwith, for refining and coining the silver produced from the Welsh lead mines. The coins of this mint may be known by the Welsh feathers. Several coins of this reign appear to have been produced by the mill and screw, under the direction, it is supposed, of Nicholas Briot, who had been chief engraver of the French monies. His coins may be known by having the letter B upon them, but their superiority consists chiefly in their mechanical execution, for the engravings of other artists of the time are more spirited. Mr. Le Blanc, author of the "*Traité historique des monoyes de France*," says, speaking of Briot's residence in England, "On ne manqua pas se servir de ses machines, et de faire par son moyen les plus belles monnoyes du monde." He afterwards returned to France, where certain regulations were altered which had caused him to leave in disgust. His return probably prevented the permanent establishment of the mill and screw in England at that time. He, however, prepared many patterns, which never came into circulation, and these are much prized in cabinets from their rarity.

In the year 1642, when the king was at Nottingham, just about the breaking out of the civil war, he received as a loan from the Universities nearly all their plate, which was to be repaid at so much per oz. for the white silver, and so much extra for the gilt silver.


CAROLVS·D:G:MAG:BRIT:FRA:ET·HIBER·REX
162
EXVRGAT·DEVS·DISSIPENTVR·INIMICI
X X
RELIG·PROT·LEG·ANG·LIBER·PARL
1644
OXON
V
166
XII
165
XXX
C
R
164
REL:PRO·LEG:ANG·LIB:PAR:
1644
167
C·R
DVM·SPERO
1648




Some of this was paid out in its original form to be sold for the pay of the troops; and so much of it as was coined, says Mr. Folkes, was minted probably at York. The king soon after removed to Shrewsbury, where the master of the Welsh mint, Mr. Bushell, was ordered to join the king, and money was coined there, but with what particular mark is unknown—probably the Welsh feathers. Little, however, was done; for Clarendon says, "it was indeed more for reputation than use, as in the absence of sufficient workmen and instruments, they could not coin a thousand pounds a-week."

After the defeat of Edgehill, the king removed the mint of Aberystwith to Oxford, to coin there, in the New Inn Hall, under the direction of Mr. Bushell and Sir William Parkhurst, all the remaining plate of the colleges. In this mint there appears to have been coined a large quantity of money, both of gold and silver, and as it was still considered the Welsh mint, although removed, the Welsh mark of the feathers was still continued. The money now coined at Oxford did not differ materially in design from that previously coined; there are, however, several varieties of types, and a great variety of degrees of excellence in the execution: some being of very mean workmanship, and others very excellent.

THE silver twenty shilling and ten shilling pieces are peculiar to this mint, and to this period, for no other such pieces occur in the annals of the English coinage. The best executed of these twenty shilling pieces is a very noble coin, having the king on horseback, crowned, and in armour, the horse trampling upon armies and trophies, surrounded by the usual titles; the reverse has the motto, "Exurgat Deus," &c., with "Relig. prot. leg. ang. liber. par.," dated 1644; alluding to his declaration at the breaking out of the war, that he would protect "*the protestant religion, the laws and liberties of his subjects, and the privileges of parliament.*" There is also a very beautiful crown of this mint with a view of the city, and the word "Oxon" above it, seen beneath the horse. The smaller pieces had the king's head as previously, but the reverses were like those

of the great twenty-shilling piece described above. Some of the half-shillings and groats have an open book as mint mark.



THIS coining down of the plate of the colleges caused the barbarous destruction of many rare and interesting relics of the highest antiquity; but such are the inevitable consequences of civil war, for in 1644 the Commons house of parliament, with equal recklessness, ordered all the king's plate in the Tower to be melted down and coined, notwithstanding a remonstrance from the Lords, alleging that the curious workmanship of the ancient plate was worth more than the metal.



IN many occasions during the most disastrous fortunes of the king in the latter part of the civil war, his partizans were under the necessity of striking money in a rude manner, by coining down their own plate for the relief of their men. By which course as many magnificent family monuments perished, as national ones had done by the sacrifices at Oxford and at the Tower. The first of this sort of money, since called siege pieces, was coined at Dublin; it consisted merely of weighed pieces of plate simply stamped with numerals, to denote their current value. Some had also a C. R. under a crown.

In 1645, when Carlisle was defended by Sir Thomas Glemham for the king, he coined down plate into shillings, &c., with the king's head very rudely done.

Some of these siege pieces are stamped with a castle, and numerals to denote the value; for instance, those struck during the siege of the castle of Scarborough. Others have a very ruinous castle, with "Carolus fortuna resurgam."

During the defence of Pontefract Castle, the coin stamped there had the motto "Dum spiro spero." This place was still defended by Colonel John Morris seven weeks after the execution of the king; and after that event this staunch royalist struck the coins he issued in the name of Charles II. The shillings so struck were of

an octagonal shape, with "Carlos secundus, 1648," round the figure of the castle, and the reverse had "post mortem patris pro filio."



Of these irregular coins, or siege pieces, there is a great variety both of gold and silver. Some have doubted the authenticity of this money, on account of the silence of cotemporary documents. But of the pieces of Pontefract, Sir H. Ellis has recently discovered the cotemporary notice required. It is contained in a newspaper of the time,—"The Kingdom's faithful and Impartiall Scout," February 5, 1648; in which some of the square Pontefract shillings, found on a royalist prisoner by the republicans, are described as being stamped on one side with a castle, and the letters P. C., and on the other with a crown, having C. R. on each side of it: a perfectly correct description, with the exception of mistaking the C for O, which does, in fact, in some specimens appear nearly round.

In this reign were coined also pieces for circulation in New England by Lord Baltimore, who was privileged to strike money with his own portrait.

The specimen 152 is one of the early half-crowns of this reign, showing the horse clothed in rich heavy housings, similar to that shown on the crowns of Edward VI, and James I., which were afterwards abandoned for a merely decorative saddle-cloth on the later coins of Charles. The motto has the king's titles, as previously stated; the reverse has the old shield, &c., with the motto, "Christo auspice regno."

Specimen 153 is one of the early shillings. Specimen 154 a reverse of a sixpence after the adoption of the oval shield. Specimen 155 is a reverse of a half-crown, dated 1645, the arms enclosed in the garter, and supported by the lion and unicorn, and has doubtless formed the model of some of our recent half-crowns.

Specimen 156 is a threepenny piece of this coinage, having the bust and oval shield, the motto of the reverse being "Christo auspice regno."

Specimen 157 is a rose halfpenny of the Welsh mint, with the feathers for the reverse.

The early twopenny pieces had the crowned roses previously mentioned.

Specimen 162 is an Oxford 20 shilling silver piece, showing the horse without the housings in which he is clothed on the earlier pieces; 163, the Oxford crown, with a view of the city; 164, the Oxford shilling, showing the king in armour, and mottos as previously described; 165, an Oxford penny; 166, a siege piece of Newark, having "Obs. Newark, 1646," on the reverse, which is not shown; 167, a siege piece of Pontefract, with the castle and OBS. P. C. 1648; and on the reverse, "dum spiro spero."



In this reign the gold coinage is not various. The fine old sovereigns, or rials, with the king enthroned, as also the nobles, were finally abandoned after the beginning of the reign; but a small coinage of angels was issued, similar to those of James I. with the arms on the sail.

The principal coins in the early part of the reign were—the unit, or broad piece (twenty shillings), with its half and quarter; first with the old shield garnished, and subsequently with the oval shield; some having on the reverse the motto, "florent Concordia Regna;" others, "cultores sui deus protegit;" the largest of these pieces had XX. behind the head, the next X., and the smallest V. to indicate their value.

The gold pieces struck at Oxford were three pounds, pounds, and ten shilling pieces, having a head of the king very meanly executed, holding the olive branch as well as the sword; and having on the reverse the motto, "exurgat," &c., and "Relig. pro." &c.

The large piece of three pounds had the numerals III. on the reverse, the lesser pieces XX. and X. respectively, behind the head. The 10 shilling pieces are without the olive branch and sword of the larger ones.

No 160 is a quarter unit with the oval shield; and No. 161 a quarter unit with the old shield. I have not space to give speci-

mens of the Oxford pieces with the olive branch, which are, as stated above, very poor in execution.

The specimen 158 is the first gold unit with the oval shield; 159 is a reverse of one of the twenty-shilling Oxford pieces, of the pattern called the exurgat money.

New proclamations were again issued in this reign against private farthing tokens of copper or lead, but no good remedy was applied to the inconvenience which called them into existence, though the privilege of making authorized farthings was granted to the Duchess of Richmond and others, for seventeen years. The farthings made under these patents were below their intrinsic value, causing endless discontent and disturbance.

Chapter X.

The Commonwealth, to George II.

(1648 to 1660).



THE Commonwealth, with the energetic Cromwell as its directing genius, proceeded at once to effect great changes in the coinage. The royal arms were thrown aside, and the simple cross of St. George, as the suitable badge of Puritanical England, was adopted. It was placed within a palm and an olive branch, and had for legend, in good plain English, "The Commonwealth of England." On the reverse were two joined shields, one bearing the cross of St. George, the other the harp of Ireland, and the motto, also in English, "God with us," and the date; that of the first being 1649. Sir Robert Harley, who had formerly been master of the mint for the late king, though he had accepted a re-appointment from the Parliament, yet refused to carry into effect this innovation in the types of the coins, and Aaron Guerdain, doctor of physic, was appointed in his place, under whose direction the change was effected.

The issue consisted of crowns, half-crowns, shillings, and half-shillings, and pieces of two-pence, a penny, and a halfpenny. The larger pieces all bore the same devices, with the exception of being marked with Roman numerals to indicate their value. The smaller


169
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PAX·QVAERITVR·BELLO·1656·
OLIVAR·D·G·R·ANG·SCO·HIB·&·PRO·

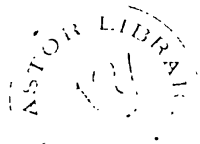
process was, however, adopted, though without the immediate aid of Blondeau, who appears to have been ill used.

In the latter part of his protectorate, after his second solemn investiture, Cromwell caused coins to be executed bearing his bust, but it is supposed that few, if any, were issued, as coins of the old type of the same date are much more numerous; they must therefore be regarded as patterns. They are exceedingly well executed by the mill process, and have the laureated bust of the Protector, with "Olivar. D. G. R. P. Ang. Sco. et Hib. &c. Pro.," assuming the title of Protector of the Republic of England, Scotland, and Ireland, but substituting "&c." for France. This bust is the work of the celebrated Simon, and most beautifully executed, in a manner far superior in point of art to anything that had ever been seen upon an English coin before. The crowns and half-crowns are indeed most remarkable medals, as regards both the engraver's and the coiner's art. The reverse has a crowned shield, with the arms of England (the cross), Ireland, and Scotland, and "Pax quæritur bello." The crowns and half-crowns have letters beautifully impressed on the edge, the shillings and sixpences being very neatly grained. They were the best executed coins that had then issued from the English, or perhaps any other mint. The silver standard adopted by the Commonwealth was 11 oz. 2 dwt. fine, and 18 dwts. alloy. Specimen 168 is the half-crown. Specimen 169 is the penny. Specimen 170 the halfpenny. Specimen 171 is the half-crown, with the bust of the Protector. Specimen 172 is the reverse of a pattern for a half-crown, prepared by the ordinary workers of the mint to rival Blondeau.

The gold coins bore the same devices and mottoes as the silver ones, and were simply twenty-shilling, ten, and five-shilling pieces; the twenty-shilling pieces contained 3 dwts. 20 grs. of 22 carats gold. Specimen 173 is the reverse of an early twenty-shilling piece. Specimen 174 is one of the twenty-shilling pieces with the bust of the Protector, which is not near so good a likeness or so well executed as those on the silver pieces. On the *gold* coin the bust is represented without drapery, a distinction subsequently adopted in succeeding coinages up to George III., with the exception of those of Queen Anne, who somewhat fastidiously objected on the score of

COINS OF CHARLES II.




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delicacy. Some few of her gold coins nevertheless exist without the drapery; but they are probably only suppressed patterns. This twenty-shilling piece of the Protector appears much smaller than the previous pieces, but it is much thicker, the milled pieces becoming generally smaller and thicker than the *previous* hammered ones.

THE trials of copper farthings which had been attempted in James I. were again repeated during the Commonwealth, but it is supposed not issued. Specimen 175 is one of those farthings; and the following specimens (176, 177, and 178) are the several reverses, which appeared on different patterns: the legend round the head was, like all the Commonwealth coins, in English: it reads, "Oliver Pro. Eng. Sco. and Ire.," and the reverses had (176) "Convenient change"—178, a ship, with "And God direct our course." 177 had three columns, bearing the badges of England, Scotland, and Ireland, united by a twisted band, with the motto, "Thus united invincible;" another had "Charity and change." The only mint during the Commonwealth and Protectorate was that of the Tower of London.

Charles II. (1660 to 1684).

IN his accession in the year 1660 there were issued silver coins, from half-crowns downwards, with the exception of groats and quarter-shillings, which were soon after added. They were, with a view perhaps of returning to the extreme of orthodoxy, much like the earliest of his father's coins, with the old shield traversed by the cross fleurie, and the same mottoes. The new improvements of the mill and screw were also abandoned, and the coins were again produced by the old hammer process.

The first issue was without numerals indicating the value, and without the inner circle; a second issue had the numerals, but still

no inner circle: but in 1661 the respective values were ordered to be stamped on each, and these new coins had also the inner circle or line within the legend, absent in the first. These first silver coins of Charles II. may be said to be the last of our series which represent the sovereign in the costume of the day. Some have the lace collar over armour, and others over an ermine robe, and all are crowned, also for the last time; no subsequent English coin bears a "crowned head," in a literal sense.

In 1662 the previously mentioned Peter Blondeau was formally engaged to direct the mint upon the new principle of mill and screw, and a competition for engraving the dies was entered into between the celebrated Simon, who had engraved the dies for the Protector's last coins, and John Roeter of Antwerp, which was unfairly decided in favour of Roeter. Simon afterwards produced a pattern crown, most exquisitely engraved, which is considered quite a model of the art of that or even any period, and very superior to any contemporary work of the class, if we except his own previous works, the busts of Cromwell on the crowns and half-crowns.



ON the edge of this famous coin is inscribed his petition to the king against the previous unjust decision, which was of course unheeded. The petition runs, "Thomas Simon most humbly prays your Majesty to compare this his tryal piece with the Dutch, and if more truly drawn and embossed, more gracefully ordered, and more accurately engraven, to relieve him."*

In 1663 the first issue of the improved milled coinage took place, consisting of crowns, half-crowns, and half-shillings, very handsomely and well executed, having the king's head laureated, and the shoulders mantled in the conventional Roman *style*, to the *left*,

* Simon had been several years one of the chief engravers of the mint, and prepared some of the first money; but it is conjectured that he was discharged after this trial.

contrary to the preceding coins,* with "Carolus II. Dei Gratia." On the reverse four shields, forming a cross, having the arms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, with linked C's in the angles, the Star of the Garter in the centre, and around, the king's titles, and the date. The crowns and half-crowns have "Decus et tutamen" on the edge—an invention, like the milled notching or graining, to prevent clipping. This motto, Evelyn says, was suggested by himself to the maker, to intimate that it was at once an ornament and a protection to the coin.† The shillings and sixpences were milled at the edge, at first by an upright notching, and afterwards by an oblique one; some have on the edges the year of the reign in numerals, as "Anno Regni XVIII."; others written, as "Tricessimo sexto" (36): by which numbers it will be seen that the reign was calculated from the death of Charles I., leaving out the Commonwealth. The portrait style, in the costume of the day above alluded to, was now finally abandoned, the first and second issue of Charles being the latest examples. The feeling of the new designs was doubtless taken from the designs of Simon, who had previously introduced it in the busts of the Protector.

This conventional Roman style was founded in France about the reign of Louis XIII., and in matters of taste France began very sensibly, though slowly, to influence the taste in England. The disposition of the four shields in the form of a cross, that extremely pleasing device which continued to George III., was also, I have no doubt, an idea of Simon's, judging from early patterns of his, in which it is imperfectly shadowed out.

The smaller coins also of this issue were milled, but retained the old types. Soon after, however, the small coins were assimilated in style, the groat being distinguished by four linked C's, the three-penny piece by three, the two-penny piece by two, and the penny by one; and silver halfpennies were no longer coined.

* Now began the custom of placing the king's head on his coin in a direction contrary to that of his predecessor, suggested perhaps by a feeling of aversion to the memory of Cromwell, on whose effigy the king probably wished that his own should turn its back.

† Hawkins.



THE coins below sixpence, after this introduction of the mill, were only struck for **Maundy money**; and in order to conform to the old custom of distributing the royal bounty on Holy or Maundy Thursday, a white bag was given to a certain number of poor persons containing as many coins as the king numbered in years.

Specimen 179 is a sixpence of the second issue, the portrait bust still adhered to, with a line inside the legend, and the numerals to denote the value. Specimen 180 is the halfpenny of that or the first coinage—perhaps the last time they were coined. Specimen 181 is a sixpence of the new coinage by mill and screw, when the Roman head was adopted for all the coins, with the four shields forming a cross for the reverse of all the larger ones, but from fourpence down to the penny, the reverses having four, three, two, and one crowned C's, to indicate their respective value, as shown in specimens 182, 183, 184, and 185, which were, however, no longer coined for circulation as stated, but merely as Maundy money. 186 is the fine pattern crown of Simon, which has the petition on the edge, and the name of the engraver, "Simon," under the bust. A specimen of this fine coin has been recently sold at the sale of Col. Durant for £155.

The gold coins were not various; the first had the head, laureate in the Roman style, with the old shield on the reverse; the next had the head similar, but the oval shield on the reverse. The reverses of both had the motto "Florent concordia regna." There were pieces of twenty shillings, ten, and five. In 1664, a gold coinage by the new process was issued, having the bust undraped, as in the Cromwell gold pieces, and the reverse, four crowned shields, bearing the arms of England, &c. with sceptres in the angles: this coinage consisted of five-pound pieces, forty-shilling pieces, and twenty-shilling pieces, for the first time called guineas, from being made from gold brought from Guinea by the African Company: there were also half guineas. The coins made of the gold imported by

the African Company had a small elephant under the bust of the king; this was done as an encouragement to the importation of gold. The term guinea, for a twenty-shilling piece, afterwards continued to the reign of George III., without reference to the source of the gold.

It was determined at the beginning of this reign, the English gold coins being still above the value of those of other nations, to increase their nominal value, and the old unit of 20 shillings was now raised to 22 shillings, and other coins in proportion, and the new coinage made to correspond; that is to say, the pound weight of gold was coined into as many more pieces of 20 shillings and 10 shillings respectively as should make them of the same relative value as the raised units, &c. In 1670 the weight of the gold coins was again reduced, the pound of gold (22 carats fine) being coined into £44 10s. At the end of this reign an Act was passed, with the view of encouraging the bringing of bullion to the mint, removing all charges upon coinage, for private individuals: the state undertaking to be at the whole expense, and the full weight of bullion was to be returned in coin without any reduction. But to defray the expenses incurred, a duty on foreign wines, vinegar, &c. was levied.

The specimen 187 is a forty-shilling piece, and 188 is the obverse of a guinea, which was issued as 20 shillings, and not as 21 shillings. its increased value occurring from the subsequent scarcity of gold.

The money of our colonies and dependencies now became interesting; but as it does not come within the bounds of this work, which relates strictly to the coins of England, I confine myself upon the subject to the relation of an anecdote.

It is said that Charles II. was much displeased with the colonists in Massachusetts on account of their coining money, which he considered a breach of his prerogative, and threatened to Sir Thomas Temple that they should be punished. Upon which Sir Thomas took some of the pieces from his pocket to show to the king, on the reverse of which was a pine tree, one of that species of pine common in the colony, that grows flat and bushy at the top, like the Italian pine. The king asked what tree it was: upon which Sir Thomas

Temple told him that of course it was the Royal Oak, which had preserved his majesty's life: upon which the king said no more of punishment, but laughing, called them "honest dogs."



On the copper coinage.—Copper being first issued in bulk in this reign, this appears the proper place to give a slight sketch of the events which led to its adoption. As early as the reigns of Henry VII. and VIII., we learn from an incidental passage in Erasmus, that leaden tokens of low value were in use, though whether sanctioned by the government or not is unknown. Similar tokens were, however, in use *without* the sanction of government in the reign of Elizabeth. They were called pledges or tokens, passing as halfpennies and farthings, being issued, for convenience, by grocers, vintners, &c. who felt the great want of small change.

On taking the matter into consideration, Elizabeth decreed that they should henceforward only be made at the royal mint, and only of pure copper, and that the halfpenny should weigh 14 grs. and the farthing 7 grs. Neither, however, were issued, though patterns exist. It was probably on the failure of this scheme that the queen granted to the city of Bristol the privilege to coin tokens to circulate in that city and ten miles round.

James again abolished (nominally) all leaden tokens of private traders, and issued a small quantity of copper farthings of his own mint; but there was no second issue, and the private tokens again prevailed; and in the troubled reign of his son they doubtless increased, as they were a source of large profit to the small greedy trader.

During the time of the Commonwealth, Cromwell endeavoured to put down this fraudulent money, by an efficient coinage of copper, of which specimens are shown in the plate referring to that period; he died, however, before carrying out his purpose; so that the excellent devices for his projected coinage of farthings remain as mere patterns, and it was not till long after the restoration that copper was first issued in bulk. At first a patent was granted to Sir Thomas Armstrong, to coin farthings of copper for twenty-one

years. For this privilege he was to pay the sum of £16 13s. 4d. per annum. He was to issue 21s. of farthings for 20s. of silver, and take them back at the same rate.

In 1665, halfpence of the royal mint were issued in small quantities; some say only patterns were done: they have the king's head, and "Carolus a Carolo;" the reverse, Britannia, with *Quatuor maria vindico*, alluding to the empire of the sea, so often claimed by our sovereigns. The figure of Britannia is very graceful, and beautifully executed. It is said to be a portrait of the beautiful Frances Stuart. The general character of the device was, of course, suggested by the Britannia of some of the Roman coins relating to Britain; but it has a character of its own, and all the details of face, figure, and drapery, are quite original: the drapery falling off the shoulder is very graceful, and the whole is executed in an elegant feeling. The farthing is not quite so elegant, and has one leg bare; the specimen is the halfpenny, showing the obverse only. These farthings were called Lord Lucas's farthings, from the circumstance of his making a speech against the state of the currency in the presence of the king; first alluding to the total disappearance of the Commonwealth coins, which, from the form of the two joining shields, were called Breeches; "a fit name," says Lord Lucas, "for the coins of the Rump;" who then proceeds to state, that he sees no probability of their being replaced, "unless it be by copper farthings, and this is the metal, according to the inscription on it, which is to *vindicate the dominion of the four seas.*" The halfpence and farthings positively issued in 1665, the first real copper coinage, were the same as the patterns above alluded to, with the exception of having the simple motto of "Britannia" on the reverse, instead of the one ridiculed by Lord Lucas; and these coins being of the intrinsic value that they were issued for, nearly superseded the private tokens, which no law had been able to put down. But so great was their convenience and the profit upon their issue, that they still continued for some time, notwithstanding stringent enactments against them. Tin farthings, with a stud of copper in them, to render their imitation difficult, were also issued at the end of this reign, having on the edge, *Nammorum famulus.* (Explained in the Index.)

James II. (1684 to 1688).



THE head of this king is turned to the left, the reverse of that of his predecessor; a custom that we shall now find constantly adhered to. The coins were in other respects similar to the last of Charles II., having the bust and name on one side, and the arms and titles on the other, with no other motto. The arms were four shields arranged as a cross, but without linked letters in the angles: the inscriptions on the *edges* are, "Anno regni secundo," &c. The shillings and sixpences are milled with oblique lines, and the lesser pieces, or Maundy money, are marked IIII to I, with a crown above. The 5s. pieces, in fine condition, of this king, are rare; that of 1688, very perfect, sold at Edmonds's sale for £1 11s. 6d.

Specimen No. 189 is a crown; specimen No. 190 is the reverse of a half-crown; specimen 191 is a sixpence; and specimens 192 and 192½ a twopenny and penny piece.



OF this reign the gold coinage differs only from the last in having the head turned the other way. The specimens are No. 194, a five-pound piece; No. 195, the reverse of a two-pound piece. The guineas and half-guineas—names now established for all 20s. and 10s. pieces—have the same devices as the larger pieces.



OF copper money very little appeared in the reign of James II., the halfpennies and farthings being of tin, with a copper plug. The reverses are the same as those of his predecessor, but they are not quite so well executed; both halfpennies and farthings have "Famulus nummorum" on the edge. The specimen No. 196 shows the obverse of a tin halfpenny, with "Jacobus secundus" for legend, and a copper plug.

COINS OF JAMES II & WILLIAM & MARY. Pl. XX.




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William and Mary, and William III. (1688 to 1702).

THE same style of coinage in its general appearance, fineness, and weight, was continued at the commencement of these reigns. The profiles of the king and queen are shown one over the other on the obverse of all the coins, surrounded with "Gulielmus et Maria, Dei Gratia," and are well executed: most of them have four shields arranged as a cross on the reverse, with the Nassau arms in the centre, and "W. & M." interlaced in the angles; but some have a simple crowned shield, with the arms of Nassau on an escutcheon of pretence. The Maundy money has the profiles of the king and queen, with short hair, without drapery, and numerals on the reverses, as previously. The later small coins, after 1692, are not so well executed, and it is supposed that the Roetters, who still worked for the mint, engraved the first, but not the later specimens.

Notwithstanding these issues, the general coinage had fallen into a bad state, and much old hammered money (still in circulation) had become thin, and was counterfeited. These circumstances called down the attack of Fleetwood, bishop of Ely, as a similar state of things in the reign of Edward VI. had excited the indignation of Latimer. Fleetwood exclaimed, in a sermon preached before the Lord Mayor at Guildhall—"The cry will be like that of Egypt, loud and universal; for every family will be a loser; but it will fall severest upon the poor, who from a little can spare none:" and another preacher, seeking a simile between the debased coinage and the laxity of religion, said—"Our divisions have been to our religion what the shears have been to our money," &c. &c.

After the death of the queen, in 1695, the king, who continued to reign by the title of William III., determined on taking into consideration the bad state of the coinage (partly owing, as has been stated, to much of the old hammered money being still in circulation, which being worn and clipped, was now below half its

value), and restore its general character. A tax was therefore laid upon dwelling-houses, to raise the sum of £1,200,000, to supply the deficiency of the clipped money; and in order that there might be as little delay as possible in carrying a complete new coinage into effect, mints were established at York, Bristol, Norwich, Exeter, and Chester, the coins of each mint being respectively marked with the initial letter of the name of the place.

By means of the assistance of these country mints the new coinage was completed in two years. The high feeling of the king upon this subject, and his determination to obtain the best opinions and guidance in the matter, are strongly exemplified by the fact of his appointment of the illustrious Newton to the post of the master of the mint, which, however, did not take place till 1697. Nearly 7,000,000 of silver money were coined during the years 1696 and 1697; by far the greatest portion of which was minted at the Tower. Besides the letters indicating the places of mintage, some of the coins had marks, such as the *rose*, indicating that the silver came from the west of England; the *plumes*, for Welsh silver; and the *elephant and castle*, indicating metal from the African Company. These marks were generally placed in the angles between the shields.

But the silver coinage was still insufficient, and continued so for twenty years afterwards, for in 1717, in the reign of George I., Sir Isaac Newton, who was still in office, said in his report, "if silver money become a little scarcer, people will, in a little time, refuse to make payments in silver without a premium."

On the new coinage the king's bust appears alone, surrounded by "Gulielmus III. Dei Gratia:" the reverse has the four shields as before, but without W. or M. in the angles, and all the pieces are alike, with the exception of mint marks. The Maundy money was as before, with the obvious exception of the king's bust being alone.



THE few rare varieties that occur in collections, it is supposed, were only patterns. The shillings and sixpences varied slightly towards the close of the reign, in having the features of the bust a little more

strongly marked, and having the hair more upright on the forehead. The year of the reign was marked on the edges of the larger pieces.

THE specimens are—No. 197, a crown of William and Mary; 198, a shilling of William and Mary; 199 and 200 are a fourpenny and a twopenny piece.

Specimen 201 (plate 20) is a crown of William III., without the W. or M.; 202 is the reverse of a sixpence, showing the roses of the west of England silver; 202½ is a silver penny of William III.

The gold coins of William and Mary and William III. consisted of five-pound pieces, two-pound pieces, guineas, and half-guineas.

Specimen 203 is a five-pound piece of William III.

Specimen 204 is a two-pound piece of William and Mary, with the simple shield on the reverse; the guineas and half-guineas were of the same pattern.

Specimen 205 is a two-pound piece of William III., showing the reverse of four shields as a cross, with sceptres in the angles, as on those of Charles II., and now continued through the two next reigns. The five-pound pieces, guineas, and half-guineas, were of the same pattern.

THE most absurd enactments were passed in this reign, with a view to remedy the scarcity of gold—"No gold was to be worn as ornaments during the war," &c. In Charles II. it had been enacted, that no gold should be used in gilding carriages.

The guineas at one time rose in this reign to the value of 30s., though pieces of equal weight and fineness could be purchased in Holland for 22s.; but an enactment reduced their value to 26s., and afterwards to 22s. These were arbitrary enactments causing the greatest confusion, and it being eventually found that, on the conti-

nent, gold bore a value as 15 to 1 of that of silver, it followed, that to preserve something like that proportion, 21s. 6d. was sufficient for the guinea, and it afterwards passed at that price. This measure, in some degree, prevented the great export of silver for the purchase of gold.



THE copper or tin coinage of these reigns did not vary much in character from those of Charles and James, but the halfpence of William III., 1699, show the Britannia, with the right leg crossed, like that on the farthings of Charles I.; but in this case the leg is draped, and not bare. The tin halfpennies and farthings have a plug of copper in them. In 1593, Andrew Corbel obtained a patent for making copper halfpence and farthings, for payment of £1000 per annum, upon which it appears the patentee would have had a profit of £18,000 in the nine years of his patent, but the patent was taken from him in the following year.

Specimen 206 is a tin farthing of *William and Mary*, with a copper plug.

Specimen 207 is a copper halfpenny of William III.

Specimen 208 is a farthing of William III. with a copper plug.



OF some of the patterns preserved, which were essays for the copper of these reigns, we find the queen's head on one side, with "Maria II. Dei Gratia;" and on the other side, the king's head, with "Gulielmus III. Dei Gra." Others had the queen's head, and "Maria II. Dei Gra." on the obverse; and on the reverse, a rose, with "Ex candor decus." Of William III. there is a pattern farthing, half brass, with a sun on the reverse, and "Non devio." These half-brass patterns look like the half of a sovereign and the half of a farthing stuck together, showing half the face red and half yellow.



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Anne (1702 to 1714).



THE coins of this reign are of the same fineness, weight, and denomination as those of the last. The devices are also the same, with trifling variations; the bust of the queen, on the obverse, is turned to the right; the hair is simply bound by a fillet, and the shoulders clothed in a light drapery, fastened in front with a stud or rosette: the legend—"Anna Dei Gratia:" the reverse has the shields arranged as a cross, with the Star of the Garter in the centre, instead of the arms of Nassau of the last reign, and date and titles, "MAG. BRI. FR. ET HIB. REG."

The slight variations alluded to are the marks denoting the sources from which the silver was derived, some having the plumes for the silver of Welsh mines, and some the roses for west of England silver; also some with both marks, denoting that the silver was mixed. Others have the word "*Vigo*" under the queen's head, in commemoration of the capture of Vigo and the Spanish galleons, from the treasure of which the silver of those coins was derived. In some the fillet in the hair is rather differently arranged. This trifling change took place in the coins issued after the legislative union with Scotland, from which time the coinage of the two countries was assimilated in every respect, and the separate Scottish coinage, with distinct national emblems, which had continued from James I. to this time, was abolished. The only distinction, now, of the Scottish coins, was the letter E., for the Edinburgh mint, under the queen's head. Those coins with the E. were the last coins produced away from the Tower. The arms of the reverses were slightly changed at this time, and those of England and Scotland, instead of being on separate shields, were impaled together on the first and third shields, those of France and Ireland occupying the second and fourth. The larger pieces have the year of the reign on the edge—as "Anno regni Quinto," "Sexto," or as the year might be.

Specimen 209 is a Vigo half-crown: No. 210 is a shilling of the Edinburgh mint: and 210½ a reverse of the same mint, showing the

arms of England and Scotland impaled as described above, and the roses and plumes denoting the mixture of the silver.

No. 211 is a specimen of the Maundy money, which had the bust like the larger pieces, but only crowned numerals on the reverse.



If the coins of the short but prosperous reign of Anne, it may be said that they mark another epoch in the improvement of English money. Charles I., by his natural taste for art, had done much for the design and execution of the coin. The spirited conduct of the Commonwealth and Cromwell had imported foreign skill, and with its aid carried the coinage of the country in perfection of execution even beyond that of neighbouring nations. In the reign of Queen Anne great attention was again paid to the execution of the coins, and great public interest seemed to be roused to the importance of those national monuments; as will be seen from the following suggestion to the government of the time by Dean Swift. He proposed that the halfpence and farthings, after the union with Scotland and the perfect assimilating of the two countries, should be entirely recoined, and that, "1st. they should bear devices and inscriptions, alluding to the most remarkable events of her majesty's reign. 2nd. That there be a society established for finding out proper subjects, inscriptions, and devices:" with other excellent suggestions and remarks.* "By this means," he said, "medals that are at present only a dead treasure, or mere curiosities, will perpetuate the glories of her majesty's reign, and keep alive a gratitude for great public services, and excite the emulation of posterity." To these generous purposes nothing can contribute in so lasting a manner as medals of this kind, for they are of undoubted authority, not perishable by time, nor confined, like other monuments, to a certain place: the combination of these properties is certainly not to be found in books, statues, pictures, buildings, or any other records of illustrious actions. The

* But after all, the interference of Swift was rather factious than sincere; for afterwards, in the affair of Wood's copper coinage, he prevented a beneficial improvement which had received the sanction of Sir Isaac Newton.

great interest of such records on coins is fully shown by the coins of the Romans, who so fully appreciated this mode of commemorating great events. Nothing, however, was done upon these useful and patriotic suggestions, though they were warmly entertained for a time, and some patterns actually struck. "But if," observes Ruding, "the Dean's project had been carried out, it would have ennobled our coinage, and have elevated it far above the rank of a mere medium of commerce."

Her gold coins were five pounds, two pounds, guineas, and half-guineas; the devices are the same as those on the silver coins, with the exception of the sceptres in the angles of the cross.

Specimen 212 is a guinea.

The queen's fastidious modesty in insisting upon the drapery about the bust, caused her gold coins so closely to resemble the silver, that shillings and sixpences were gilt and passed for guineas and half-guineas; the only difference being that the guineas had a lock of hair proceeding from the nape of the neck, and lying over the right shoulder on the right breast. Another mark by which these false guineas might be detected was, of course, the sceptres on the reverse.



Of copper, none at all was issued during the reign; and the Queen Anne farthings, of which so much has been said, were only patterns, and never issued; they are, however, not excessively rare, the one with sunk letters being the most scarce.

The specimen of these patterns, No. 214, is one with raised letters; the other copper specimen is a pattern halfpenny (213), probably executed with a view of celebrating the union with Scotland, as it has on the reverse a rose and thistle on the same stem, crowned with a single crown.

Among the patterns of farthings is a fine one with the bust well executed, and Anna Augusta for the obverse, and Victory in a war chariot, with the motto, "Pax missa per orbem," on the reverse (1713), probably struck with a view to commemorate the general peace. Others have the figure of Britannia, like that on the farthings

of Charles II., but placed in a decorated niche. This is called the canopy pattern. Some of these patterns are struck in gold.

There is a pattern halfpenny, among others, having on the reverse a small Britannia, holding a sprig of rose and thistle on the same stem; above the figure is a large crown.

George I. (1714 to 1727).



THE coinage of this reign remained the same in weight and value as in the preceding; the bust of the king was executed in the conventional style of the time, with Roman mantle and armour, and is turned to the left. The legend on the obverse contains the titles as well as the name, with (for the first time, as a permament addition) "defender of the faith, *Fidei Defensor*," abbreviated like the rest, as "GEORGIUS D. G. M. BR. FR. ET HIB. REX F. D." On the reverse his German titles appear; as "Brunsvicensis et Lunenbergensis Dux Sacri Romani Imperii, Archithesaurius et Elector," abbreviated as "BRUN. ET L. DUX. S. R. I. A. TH. ET EL." His own arms are not placed in the centre like those of William III., but occupy the fourth shield. The marks indicating the derivation of the silver are continued as in the preceding reign; some having also S. S. C. for that received from the South Sea Company, and some a plume and linked C's, for a Welsh Copper Company. The large pieces have on the edge their date, and that of the year of the reign, as "1718, Quinto," &c

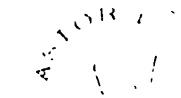
The Maundy money has the bust, with "Georgius Dei Gra.," and on the reverse a crowned numeral with the king's English titles only. It is a rather disgraceful fact to English skill, that in this reign the coins executed in the petty state of Brunswick for circulation in the king's foreign dominions are far better in execution than the English ones. They are of similar device.



OF the scarcity of silver in this reign much has been said. It was certainly insufficient for the circulation required. Many distinguished men were consulted on this and other matters connected with the coinage;

COINS OF GEORGE II & GEORGE III.




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and in 1717, Sir Isaac Newton,* still Master of the Mint, in his report previously alluded to, stated that "if silver money should become a little scarcer, people would refuse to make payments in silver."

Specimen 215 is a half-crown, 216 is a reverse, with the feathers and roses, occupying the same places as the "S. S. C." of the South Sea Company. The crowns, shillings, and sixpences have the same devices. The guinea, minted in the Tower as twenty shillings, was reduced from its current rate of twenty-two shillings to twenty-one shillings. The gold coins of the realm were five-pound pieces, two-pound pieces, guineas, half-guineas, and for the first time (by that name) quarter-guineas. They had the same devices as those of his silver coins, with the exception of the omission of drapery on the bust, and the addition of the sceptres in the angles of the cross on the reverse.

Specimen 217 is a guinea, and 218 is a quarter-guinea.

The copper coinage was much extended in this reign; above £46,000 worth was coined in 1717, the pound avoirdupois being coined into twenty-eight pence. Specimen 219 is a farthing.

The Britannia on the halfpenny now became more like that of the Roman coin from which it was originally taken. Some patterns dated 1724 have Britannia leaning upon a harp instead of a shield, probably a pattern for an Irish coinage. The farthing given is one of 1717, but there is another of 1723 with the head in much better relief.

George II. (1729 to 1760).



In the coinage during this reign, no change took place in the weight, value, &c. The king's head was again reversed, as had now become customary, and his bust consequently turns to the right, with simply "GEORGIUS II. DEI GRATIA," as in the reign of his father; on the reverse a change took place in the arrangement of the title, which stands thus:—"M. B. F. ET H. REX F. D. B. ET

* He was appointed Master of the Mint in 1797, in the reign of William III.—Snelling.

L. D. S. R. I. A. T. ET E." being merely a new abbreviation of the English titles, followed by a still more close abbreviation of the German ones, as will be explained by referring to the last reign, or to plate xxiii. in the descriptive Index. Some alteration was made in this reign in the pattern of the milling at the edges of shillings, sixpences, &c.; for although the milled edge had put a stop to the old clipping system, filing was now resorted to for robbing the coin; by which means, after a portion of the edge had been removed, the upright or diagonal lines might be restored by the file. To remedy this evil, a serpentine line, very difficult to imitate by the file, was adopted about 1740. In addition to the previous marks indicating the different sources of the metal, the word *Lima* occurs on those of his coins minted from the silver captured either by Lord Anson, in the great Acapulco Galleon, or, as some think, by the Prince Frederic and Duke privateers. Some have an elephant for the silver brought by the African Company. The Roman armour of the shoulder differs from that of his father in having a lion's head for ornament. Specimen 220 is a half-crown coined in the year of the invasion of the Pretender. Specimen 220½ is a reverse, having the roses indicating west of England silver. Specimen 221 is a penny-piece of the Maundy money. The large silver pieces have their date and that of the reign on the edge—as "1741, Decimo Quarto," &c. &c.



IF the gold coins the quarter-guinea was omitted in this reign. Up to this time, a number of the old hammered coins of James I., Charles I., and Charles II. were still in circulation, as *broad pieces*, an appropriate name for the old thin rials and angels. Their circulation was now forbidden by enactment.

The principal gold coins minted were guineas and half-guineas, only a few five-pound and two-pound pieces being struck. The guinea was, by proclamation, in 1737, raised to 22s. 9d., and foreign gold coins passing in this country, principally Portuguese, settled at proportionate rates. The designs of the reverses of the gold coins were changed in this reign, and the old garnished shield, somewhat

varied, again adopted in place of the four shields disposed as a cross. The disposition which was thus abandoned on the gold, was, however, continued on the silver coins.

Specimen 222 is a two-pound piece.

THE first coinage of copper halfpence and farthings in this reign was under warrant of Queen Caroline (in 1738), for the time guardian of the realm. There were forty-six halfpence coined out of the pound avoirdupois. Though the false coining of gold or silver had been made high treason, the coining of copper money was only deemed a misdemeanour, and the increased penalty of this reign only made the punishment two years' imprisonment; which slight punishment, in comparison to that respecting gold and silver coins, was perhaps one cause of the great quantity of false copper money now sent into circulation. Birmingham was the chief seat of these illegal mints, though destined afterwards to become the legitimate spot where the whole copper coinage of the country was to be for a time carried on. Up to this time, however, the copper coinage appears to have been still a temporary expedient only. No monies were worked in this reign but at the Tower and in the king's German dominions.

The copper coinage of George II. presents no remarkable feature; the specimen (223) is a halfpenny of 1742 (given in Ruding); the reverse, Britannia, very like that of the Roman coins, but stiff, and poor in style.

Chapter XI.

English Coins.

(From George III. to Victoria.)

(1760 to 1820.)



HIS prince, on succeeding to the throne of his grandfather, did not meddle with the silver coinage, although the currency was scanty in amount, and of decreased value, from excessive wear and filing, which all the precautions of the last reign had not been able effectually to prevent. In 1762 and 1763, a small amount of coin (£5791) was issued, but of what denomination is not stated. In this coinage, and till 1787, one pound of silver of 11 ozs. 2 dwts. fine, to 18 dwts. alloy, was coined into 62 shillings. But Mr. Hawkins supposes it was not from dies of George III., as no coinage (except the Maundy money) was issued with his portrait,* before 1763, when shillings to the amount of £100! were struck for distribution to the populace of Dublin, when the Earl of Northumberland became Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. A coinage, however, was in contemplation, as evinced by the pattern shilling of 1764. In 1780, a proposal was made, but without success, to take the coinage out of the hands of the sovereign, abolishing the Mint establishment, and vesting the power of coining in the Bank of England. It seems almost

* Very poorly done on the Maundy money, till the issue (or patterns) of 1798, called the wire money, on which the head is very beautifully executed in low relief.

impossible, however, to conceive that still no serious issue of silver money took place until 1787, twenty-seven years after the accession of the king, more than the average length of a long reign; and yet, in 1772, the bad state of the coinage offered such temptations to forgery, that £1136 was granted over and above the £600 per annum allowed in George II. for prosecuting forgers. The year 1787 was marked by an issue of £55,459 in shillings and sixpences, the king's bust appearing much in the same modern Roman style as that of his predecessor, but stiff and less bold in execution, though an improvement on the shillings of 1763. These shillings resemble on the reverse, both in type and legend, those of George II., except that in the last mentioned the crowns are between the shields instead of over them. As the silver pieces in circulation in this country at the time were all light, and worn quite smooth, the new issue soon found its way to the melting pot, being worth considerably more than the old shillings. In 1787 sixpences were issued exactly like the shillings; but all these small batches of new coins soon disappeared, and the currency became gradually more and more scanty and depreciated, without any great effort on the part of the government to remedy the evil.



THIS state of things was, inconceivable as it may appear, allowed to go on, getting gradually worse and worse, till the year 1803, when it was attempted to patch up the grievance by stamping Spanish dollars,* for circulation, with a mark like that used at Goldsmith's Hall for stamping silver plate. In the following year this stamp was changed for a small octagon containing the king's head; and about the same time an arrangement was made with Mr. Bolton, of Soho, near Birmingham, to stamp the entire face of the dollar with a device, by means of machinery, the result of the great inventions in the application of steam-power, recently rendered practical by Watt. In

* The ancient Greeks also stamped the coins of another town or state, when they accepted them for public circulation.

1798, Messrs. Dorrien and Magen endeavoured to remedy the great scarcity of silver money to some extent, by sending a quantity of bullion to the Tower to be coined on their own account, according to the act of Charles II., upon payment of certain dues. But after it was coined, the government of this unfortunate period, destined ever to be obstructive, caused it all to be melted down, on the plea that a coinage could not be lawful without a proclamation; so that this attempt on the part of the public to right the grievance themselves, was rendered unavailing by the government. These coins, of which a very few specimens escaped the crucible, were, with the exception of the date, exactly like those of 1787.

A small issue of shillings, sixpences, and Maundy money, took place in 1797 and 1798, the heads on which are very much more beautifully executed than those of any other coins of the reign. Some consider them to have been only patterns: they are known among collectors as the *wire* money, from the very slender numerals on the Maundy pieces (No. 226).

It was not till 1816, during the regency of the Prince of Wales, that it was determined to meet the difficulties of a new coinage. This event was, perhaps, more owing to the activity and energy of Messrs. Boulton and Watt, than to any initiative feeling on the part of the government: those gentlemen had, in the copper coinage confided to them in 1797, proved the efficacy of their vast machinery, and had scientifically considered all the principles upon which the coinage of a great nation ought to be conducted, especially as regards its protection from the clipper and filer, and from the effects of legitimate wear and tear. The first safeguard was obtained by such further improvements in the milling of the edges as rendered manual imitation almost impossible: and the second, the protection of the impress, by preventing it from rubbing against other coins, was to a great extent effected by a rim round the extreme edge being raised somewhat higher than the relief of the device. Many beautiful and successful specimens were produced; and at length, by these facilities, and the arrival of the grievance at an insupportable height, the government was stimulated to meet the difficulty.

Messrs. Boulton and Watt erected machinery in the Tower similar to their own at Soho, and a new coinage began in earnest. The

French Revolution had worked great changes not only in politics, but in art, in all Europe; and the new coinage was consequently in a totally different style of design to all previous ones.



THE Parisian school, founded by David and his followers, had thrown off the fluttering pomposity of the modern *Roman* style, and aimed at copying even nature through the artistic medium of the statuesque simplicity of GREEK models; and however full of exaggeration in itself, the new style led the way to a better and more natural school of art than that which sprung up about the period of Louis XIII., and had been growing feebly worse till the revolution of 1784; even more characterless in England than on the Continent. The dies were executed for the new coinage by Wyon, and, influenced by the general new feeling in art, he abandoned the conventional Roman armour and mantle, and produced a simple laureated bust, founded upon the style of antique models; those of Greece now furnishing the feeling rather than those of Rome, which, in the previous phase of art, had been filtered down to the most insipid conventional mannerism; whilst the new school, with all its defects, set forward under new and more invigorating influences. The design adopted was a laureated head, the bust undraped; too familiar to require description. The reverse also was changed, and the old disposition of the four shields as a cross finally abandoned. In February 1817, the issue of the new half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences, took place, and all who recollect that event can bear witness to the agreeable impression it produced, and the extraordinary beauty the coins appeared to possess, after the flat, bent, and battered bits of silver, of half their nominal value, that had been so long made to pass current as the coin of the realm. The old shillings were about one-quarter, and the sixpences one-third less than their proper value.

The pieces were, indeed, in mechanical execution, the finest that had ever been issued in Europe, and the artistic merit of the devices was very considerable.



ONE of the principal defects was a coarse, or, perhaps, brutal expression in the face of the king's portrait. Crown pieces were soon afterwards issued, having on the reverse a device similar to that of the George noble of Henry VIII., but in the new school of art: the knight in armour being superseded by a *classical* naked figure in a Greek helmet. This attempt to exhibit on the coin some work of art of a class superior to the trivialities of heraldic blazonry, was made by Pistrucci, whose work did not, however, give the satisfaction it deserved, and was over severely criticised. This figure, it is said, of St. George and the Dragon, is nearly a copy from a figure in a battle-piece on an antique gem of the Orleans collection; but several Greek coins I could point out might equally well have furnished the model. It is on the whole a spirited performance; but the improvement it might have effected in the style of art displayed on our coinage was completely swamped by the petty jealousies and bickerings, caused by the introduction of Pistrucci (as a foreigner) to the mint. He had previously engraved a similar figure upon the twenty-shilling gold coin of the new issue, now again termed a sovereign after a lapse of three centuries. The silver crown of George III. is now getting scarce, and the handsome reverse, being better appreciated, collectors give from twenty to thirty shillings for well preserved specimens.

On the half-crowns the armorial bearings are displayed on a simple shield, with the arms of Hanover on an escutcheon of pretence; they have on the reverse, "Britanniarum Rex, Fid. Def.:" in the garniture of the shield are the letters W. W. P., for William Wellesley Pole, master of the mint; and W. for Wyon, the engraver; the edge is milled with a peculiar notching, and not lettered, as the half-crowns of previous reigns.

The shillings were engraved by Wyon from a bust cut in jasper by Pistrucci.

The Maundy money has the new bust, but the crowned numerals as before.

On the issue of this new money, individuals received in exchange

for old coins, new ones equal in amount to the *nominal* value of the old, the loss falling upon the general revenue. Twenty stations were established in different parts of London for effecting the exchange, which, with the assistance of the bankers, was carried through in an incredibly short space of time.

Of this great recoinage of 1817, when the style of the coins was totally changed, as described, I do not think it necessary to give examples, as all the coins then struck are still in circulation; and beautiful and very numerous specimens, I hope, in the pockets and cash-boxes of all my readers.

THE last specimens given in this work are therefore the earlier coins of this reign, before the change of style. Specimen No. 225, the first shilling issued in 1763. Specimen No. 224 is the obverse of a shilling of the issue of 1787. And 224½ the reverse of a shilling of 1763. No. 221 is a three-penny piece of the first Maundy money, the date of which has been blundered by our engraver; and No. 226 is a three-penny piece of the *wire money*.

THE gold coinage of this reign was not quite so long neglected as that of silver. But, nevertheless, the issues were scanty and insufficient. In the year of the king's accession, a gold coinage took place, and there are guineas of this type (226), with the date of almost every year between 1761 and 1774. It was principally of guineas and half-guineas, some larger pieces being merely struck as medals. In the following year, quarter-guineas were again struck as in George I. A subsequent gold coinage took place in 1770, when 44 guineas and a half were coined out of every pound weight of gold, 22 carats fine to 2 carats of alloy (crown gold); seven shilling pieces were also added to the quarter-guineas in this coinage.*

* In 1793, the gold coinage had become so deteriorated that it was found necessary to obtain a grant of £230,000, to cover the cost of calling in the light gold; which, however, was a step in the right direction.

In 1774, the head on the guinea was changed for one resembling, though in poorer relief, a beautiful *pattern* afterwards referred to.

In 1787, a new gold coinage took place, and the guineas, known as spade guineas, appeared; they were so called from the shield on the reverse, which was quite simple, and of the form of a pointed spade. The latest date I have seen on guineas of this pattern is 1799.

Then comes the last guinea, that of 1813. It has the head in a more modern style, and the reverse is also of a totally new character, having the arms in a *small circle* enclosed in a "garter." The half-guineas followed nearly the same course, the improved head appearing about 1774, and the spade pattern about 1787; but half-guineas with the arms enclosed in a garter appeared as early as 1801, and I have seen specimens with the date of each year up to 1813; guineas of this type were probably prepared at the same time, but I have only seen them of the date of 1813.*

The seven-shilling pieces have on the reverse, a crown, but without a lion, as on the *pattern* to be referred to; the head on the early ones is very bad, but in 1804 it was changed for one similar to that on the half-guineas. Next came the 20s. piece of 1817, now again termed a *sovereign;* the term guinea, which first came into use in the reign of Charles II., finally disappearing.



THE wretched state of the coinage throughout the greater part of this reign, though it did not till the eleventh hour stimulate the government to any effectual remedy, yet produced a certain extent of activity in the preparation of patterns,† and other such preliminary steps. The most remarkable gold patterns prepared are as follows:—

First, a finely executed piece, dated 1772, the head of which is

* I should state that these notes on the guineas of George III. are made from the collection in the British Museum, which I have since been informed is far from complete.

† In speaking of *patterns*, such pieces as were never executed in quantity, and never issued, are alluded to.

superior to that on any gold coin really issued up to 1817, though poorly imitated on the guineas from 1774 to 1787.

Secondly, a curious pattern, called La Mahon's, or Lord Stanhope's pattern: the head is very poor, and executed in a wretched wiry manner, which it is said his Lordship considered a style likely to wear well. This pattern has a curious border or edging by which it is easily distinguished.

In 1798, a pattern guinea was proposed by Messrs. Boulton and Watt, of the same design as the large penny they coined for the government in 1797, with the raised rim and sunk letters. It looks very well in gold.

There is a pattern seven-shilling piece of 1775, with the rose, shamrock, and thistle, crowned, for reverse.

There is also a pattern half-guinea, having, with a view to durability, the portrait *sunk* instead of raised—an approach to the *incavo-relievo* style of the Egyptians, recommended for the new coinage of Victoria by Mr. Bonomi.



The copper coinage.—Copper received no more attention in the early part of this reign than silver. The following are the only remarkable events connected with it. In 1770, the sovereignty of the Isle of Man was purchased of the Duke and Duchess of Athol for £70,000, when copper was struck for circulation in the island, having for its device the three legs, the armorial device of Man.



The general copper currency was in such a state about 1784, that private tokens were again tolerated. The tradesmen's tokens began with the Anglesea penny, and continued to spread in great variety, forming in themselves an interesting collection of medals, till suppressed by the lawful coinage of 1797; in the July of which year a contract was entered into with Mr. Boulton, of Soho, near Birmingham, for coining 500 tons of copper in pence only.

The result of this contract was the production of the large, boldly

executed pennies (No. 227) so abundantly current for some time afterwards. And so much better was this undertaking conducted at Soho, that, though Mr. Boulton included many things not mentioned in Mint estimates, he coined more cheaply, and yet gained a profit.* Indeed, so convinced was the government of his more acute views in the management of the undertaking, that they were glad to allow him to find his own copper for a subsequent coinage.

Specimen No. 227½ is the reverse of a halfpenny of one of the next coinages in 1799.

George IV. (1820 to 1830).



In this reign the silver coins continued of the same value and denomination as the recent coinage in the previous reign. Most of the pieces have the initials of Pistrucci (B. P.), who engraved all the first dies. The George and Dragon was slightly altered for the crowns, being also somewhat larger. In 1824, the king disapproved of the likeness on the coins, and the bust of Chantrey being just completed, Pistrucci was directed to copy it in a series of new dies; but he declined imitating the work of another artist, and the dies after Chantrey's bust were consequently executed by Wyon: since which time Pistrucci has enjoyed a sinecure in his appointment in the Mint. In these coins after Chantrey, which is a highly flattered likeness, the king is represented without the laurel, which, as an emblem of victory, was considered inappropriate, no war having taken place in his reign. It is a symbol that will most likely not be renewed. These pieces, with the reverse engraved by Merlin, are very beautiful; and a great improvement on the last coins was effected in the armorial bearings, by leaving out the *lines* indicative of the colour of the respective fields, which rather confused the effect of the design of 1817 and succeeding years.

* This penny has the inscription *sunk* in the raised rim, with a view to its long preservation. The whole pattern was thought so striking, that a pattern guinea was made from the same design. The die for this penny was executed by a German artist, in the employ of Messrs. Boulton, and a K exists on some of the coins—the initial letter of his name *(Kughler)*.

A reverse for the shillings was adopted in 1825, consisting of a sprig of rose, thistle, and shamrock, united under a crown. It had been proposed for gold seven-shilling pieces in 1775, but only patterns were struck.

The Maundy money has the bust like the early coins of this reign, the new bust never being adopted for these small coins; the reverses have the numerals crowned between branches, and the date. Particulars respecting the slight differences of each separate issue appear superfluous in this place, particularly as most of the coins are still in common circulation.



THE gold underwent similar reforms as to the head of the king, the flat laureated head by Pistrucci giving place to the Chantrey head by Wyon; and there are double sovereigns, sovereigns, and half-sovereigns of this type. The double sovereigns are most beautiful coin, the head in bold relief, and very simple and grand in effect. Larger pieces were struck, but not for general circulation.



THE copper coins underwent similar alterations; the old Britannia becoming a more Minerva-like figure, with a Greek helmet, and the Chantrey bust without laurel was adopted on the later pennies, halfpennies, and farthings.

William IV. (1830 to 1837).



THE Duke of Clarence ascended the throne on the death of his brother, and arrangements were made for a new coinage, exactly on the same principles as those of the last coins of the preceding reign.

Pattern crowns, issued only in small number for the cabinets of collectors, had the arms on the reverse, in a plain shield displayed on a mantle of ermine. The half-crowns, of the same pattern, with slight exceptions, were issued for currency.

The shillings were issued with no armorial device, but with simply "One Shilling" on the reverse between a branch of oak and one of laurel: a device affording perhaps still less scope for the talent of the artist than even the armorial bearings. But as long as the office of Master of the Mint is conferred upon some political adherent, without regard to his fitness for its duties, little reform in the style of art adapted to the coinage can be expected.* The Maundy money of this reign has the numerals, between similar branches of oak and laurel to those of the shillings.



THE **groat,** or fourpenny piece, was again issued for currency in this reign, and proved a very useful coin. The reverse is similar to that on the recent copper coins, being Britannia helmeted, with trident; and the legend is "Four Pence."

The gold coins for circulation were like the last pieces of George IV., having the head without a laurel wreath, and very beautifully executed by Wyon; indeed a perfectly new impression of one of the sovereigns of this reign is a very beautiful memorial of the art of the period. There were only sovereigns and half-sovereigns, the five pounds and double sovereigns being only coined in small numbers, and principally issued among collectors.

The copper coins remained pennies, halfpennies, and farthings, and were modelled after those of silver and gold—the head being like those of George IV., without the laurel; the reverses had the figure of Britannia, like those of the last reign.

* Mr. Hawkins, in his excellent work, refers to these misappointments in a spirited and eloquent manner.

Chapter XIII.

Victoria.



THE death of the late king in 1837 brought the Princess Victoria, daughter of his brother the Duke of Kent, to the throne. In this reign no crowns have as yet been issued. The half-crowns have a very pleasing portrait bust of the Queen, engraved by Wyon, from a wax model taken by himself from the life. The reverse has the shield, crowned between two branches of laurel. The colours are again expressed in the arms by lines in different directions, in the usual heraldic manner—which is certainly not an improvement. The half-crowns were not issued for two years, many causes of delay occurring. The shilling resembles that of the preceding reign, the reverse having "One Shilling" between oak and laurel branches. The sixpences have the same types as the shillings.

The Maundy money has the portrait like the groat (or fourpenny piece), but the reverses have the crowned numerals as previously. The groat is still coined for circulation, having the figure of Britannia on the reverse as in the last reign. The gold coins are only sovereigns and half-sovereigns, with the same head by Wyon on the obverse. The larger pieces were only struck as medals; which may be procured by the curious on application at the Mint.

A pattern has, however, just been issued of a £5 piece, which it is said is intended for circulation. It has a fine head of the Queen on the obverse, and on the reverse, as a step toward a greater display of art, a beautiful symbolic figure of Una and the lion. This idea, however, appears somewhat far-fetched, and but little appropriate.



THE copper coinage is continued upon the same principles as in the two preceding reigns, with the exception of the addition of the half-farthing—a very pretty little coin, but not issued in sufficient numbers to prove of that convenience to the poor in the purchase of small portions of cheap articles of food, &c., which an abundant issue might have caused them to become, as shown in the case of *cents*, and other small copper money of neighbouring nations.

The sketch of the coinage in the three last reigns is but a mere outline, as all the circumstances connected with the coins of a period so recent must be too familiar to require recapitulation.

A pattern five-shilling piece was prepared in 1847, having the head of the Queen *crowned*, the last example of that mode of representation being the first issue of the reign of Charles II.—rather an unfortunate precedent. On the reverse was revived the pretty device of the four shields as a cross, the angles filled with well-designed branches of rose, shamrock, and thistle, the inscriptions beautifully executed in old English character of striking effect.

On the whole, notwithstanding many defects, it was a beautiful coin; but never worked, on account of petty abuses in the administration of the Mint, the reform of which, it was found, would be more troublesome than the abandonment of the new crown.

The best and most convenient reference to the plates in this work will be found in the Descriptive Index.









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DESCRIPTIVE INDEX OF PLATES.

*** The small letters in mottoes supply abbreviations.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE I.

COINS OF THE ANCIENT BRITONS.

No. Page

1. Is a British Coin of the Greek period, of the kind found in Yorkshire, struck after the period of the first Roman invasion; on one side is a rude horse and the word TIGIN; these coins are alloyed with copper 2
2. Is a Coin of Greek form, reading TASC., the abridged form of Tasciovanus, interpreted by Mr. Birch as Tasciovanus, king of Verulamium (St. Alban's), about the time of Tiberius 2
3. Is another Coin of the same king, reading TASCIOVAN. in a fuller form 2
4. Is a rude type of the kind found in Jersey, and rather resembling the Gaulish than the British series 2
5. Is a Silver Coin, by mistake printed in copper, reading on one side SEGO and on the other TASCIO, supposed to be Segonax, son of Tasciovanus, or perhaps rather Tasciovanus, son of Segonax. Some of these coins have Tasciovan f. and some actually Tasciovan fil. for Tasciovani filius 3
6. Has a horse on the obverse, and the inscription CVNO for Cunobelinus, the King Cymbeline of Shakespeare; on the reverse is an ear of barley, and CAMV, for Camulodunum or Colchester, which was his capital 3
7. A Coin of Cunobelin, with the inscription CVNOBELIN, a contraction of Cunobelinus, and a head of Mercury in the Roman style; and on the reverse what has been erroneously supposed to be a man coining money, but which is, in fact, Vulcan forging the armour of Achilles: the inscription is TASCIO, for Tasciovanus, possibly father of Cunobelinus, who it would appear was the grandson of Segonax . . 3
8. Is a Coin of Cunobelin imitated from a Roman consular coin; on the obverse is a head with Tasc., for Tasciovanus, and on the reverse Apollo playing on the lyre, and the inscription Cunobelin imperfectly written 3
9. A Coin of about the period of Cunobelin, having VERLAMIO on the reverse—of course Verulamium (St. Alban's) 3

No. Page

10. Is a Coin with much of the earlier Greek style about it; having BODVO, supposed to form part of Boduodicea, or Boadicea 3

11 & 12. Are ancient British Coins of Tin, probably the coins of the country before the introduction of the Greek models 1

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE II.

COINS OF THE ROMANS IN BRITAIN (page 4.)

13. A Gold Coin of Claudius; the inscription on the obverse, TI(berius) CLAVD(ius) CAESAR AVG(ustus) P(ontifex) M(aximus) TR(ibunitia) P(otestate) VIIII. (for nonum), IMP(erator) XVII. (for decimum septimum); on the reverse, it has DE. BRITANN. 5

14. The reverse of a Brass Coin of Hadrian, with the Britannia, which has served for a model for our modern copper coins 5

15. A large Brass Coin of Commodus; inscription on obverse, M. COMMODVS ANTONINVS AVG(ustus) PIVS. BRIT(tannicus); the reverse has P.M. TR. P.X. IMP. VII. 6

16. A Brass Coin of Septimus Severus; the inscription on the obverse, L. SEPT(imus) SEVERVS PIVS. AVG(ustus); on the reverse, VICTORIAE. BRITTANNICAE. and S..... C..... . . 6

17. Is a Copper Coin of Allectus; the inscription on the obverse is IMP(erator) C. ALLECTVS. PIV(s) FEL(icitas) AVG(usti); the reverse, PROVID(entia) AVG(usti) . . . . . 7 & 8

18. Is a Copper Coin of Carausius—IMP(erator) CARAVSIVS. P(ius) AVG(ustus); on the reverse, LAETITIA. AVG(usti) (the happiness of Augustus) 7

—. The Gold Coin without a number, is the obverse of the fine Gold Carausius in the British Museum, the reverse of which is a Jupiter, &c. . 7

19. Is a Copper Coin of Constantine; the inscription on the obverse, CONSTANTINVS. AVG(ustus) 8

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE III.

CONTAINING

THE SKEATTÆ, AND SOME COINS OF THE HEPTARCHY

(page 10.)

20. Is a Skeatta with a head on the obverse, and the Christian emblems of the Dove and the Cross on the reverse 12

21. Is one, the devices of which have not been explained 12

No. Page

22. One, with the device of the wolf and twins, copied from a common coin of Constantine 12
23. One, with a rude device, once thought to have been taken for the wolf and twins, but which is in fact the debased form of a head . 12
24. One, on which the degenerated head has been construed into a bird . 12
25. One, with a device found on Roman coins, but resembling very ancient Danish coins 12

KENT (page 13.)

26. One, with the debased head, and on the other side an inscription in Runic characters ETHILD. REX, the earliest positive monument of the Saxon Heptarchy, (A.D. 568) 12
27. The earliest known Saxon Silver Penny, supposed to be of Ethelbert II. (A.D. 725); the inscription is ETHILBERHT, and some undefined characters; and on the reverse the wolf and twins, with REX . . 13
28. Is a Silver Penny of Eadbert (A.D. 794), having EADBEARHT. REX, and on the reverse the moneyer's name, IAENBERHT . . 13 & 14
29. A Silver Penny of Cuthred (A.D. 794); the inscription round the head is CVDRED. REX. CANT.; the last word for CANTIÆ (Kent); a moneyer's name on the reverse 14
30. Another Penny of Cuthred, with a tribrach on the reverse. It has been engraved by accident instead of a coin of Baldred, his successor, (A.D. 805), the reverse of which has the moneyer's name, and DRVR. CITS, for Dorovernia Civitas (City of Canterbury), the first example of a coin of that mint: this coin, it will be seen, has a piece broken out 15

MERCIA (page 15.)

31. Is a Penny of Eadvald (A.D. 716); the ALD is above EADV in the inscription; below is REX; on the reverse the moneyer's name . 15
32. Is a Penny of Offa (A.D. 757); OFFA. REX. preceded by a cross, in the inscription 15
33. A Penny of Cynethryth, the queen of Offa; the inscription on the reverse reads CYNEDRIT. REGIN. (for Regina) . . . 15

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE IV.

COINS OF THE SAXON HEPTARCHY (page 13.)

EAST ANGLES (page 17.)

34. Is a Skeatta of Beonna (A.D. 750); the inscription is in Runic characters, and reads BEONNA. REX.; on the reverse the moneyer's name EFE appears 17

No. Page

35. Is a Silver Penny of Eadmund (A.D. 855); the inscription is EADMVND. REX., and on the reverse the moneyer's name . . . 17
36. Is a Penny of Ethelstan (A.D. 870), which reads EDELSTIN, without the REX 18

NORTHUMBERLAND (page 18.)

37. Is a Styca of Egfrith (A.D. 670), with ECGFRID. REX., and on the reverse a cross with rays of light, and LVX. (light) . . . 19
38. Is a Styca of Elfwald (A.D. 779); it reads ALEFVALD . . . 19
39. Is a Silver Penny of Regnald (A.D. 912); the inscription has the Latin REX changed to the Saxon CVNVNC, and reads REGNALD. CVNVNC 21
40. Is a Penny of Anlaf (A.D. 941); the inscription reads ANLAF. CVNVNC. IL; on the reverse is the moneyer's name . . . 21

COINS OF SAINTS (page 21.)

41. Is a Penny of St. Peter; the inscription reads S(an)C(t)I. PE(t)R(i)MO.(neta) 22
42. Is a Penny of St. Edmund, which reads S(an)C(t)I. EDMVN(di)R(e)X; the reverse has the moneyer's name 22

COINS OF PRELATES (page 22.)

43. Is a Penny of Ceolnoth (A.D. 830), archbishop of Canterbury; it reads CEOLNOD. ARHI. EPI(scopus); on the reverse the moneyer's name, and Dorovernia civitas 22
44. Is a Penny of Jaenbrht, archbishop of Canterbury (A.D. 763); the inscription reads IAENBRHT. AR(chi). EP(iscopus) . . . 22
45. Is a Styca of Ulfhere, archbishop of York (A.D. 854); it appears to read VVILFHERE. A(rchi). EP(iscopus) 23

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE V.

COINS OF THE SAXON SOLE MONARCHS (page 24.)

46. A Penny of Egbert (A.D. 800); his name reads ECGBEORHT. REX. 25
47. A Penny of Ethelwlf (A.D. 837); his name reads EDELVVLF. REX. 25
48. A Penny of ÆTHELBALD (A.D. 855); his name reads AEDELBALD REX 25
49. A Penny of Æthelbert (A.D. 856); his name reads EDELBEARHT REX 25
50. A Penny of Æthelred (A.D. 866); his name reads EDELRED. REX. A. (Anglorum) 25

No. Page

51. A Penny of Ælfred the Great (A.D. 872); his name reads ÆLFRED. REX; and on the reverse the monogram of London . . . 25
52. The reverse of a Penny of Edward the elder (A.D. 901); on the obverse (not shown) his name reads EADWEARD. REX. . . . 26
53. The reverse of a Penny of Æthelstan, showing a rude building with Eborace c. for Eborace civitas (city of York), and Regnald. mon., (for monetarius); that is, Regnald the moneyer or coiner; on the obverse the king's name reads AEDELSTAN. REX. . . . 26
54. Another Penny of Æthelstan (A.D. 925), showing both sides . . 27
55. A Penny of Edmund; his name reads EADMVD. REX., the N being omitted by accident—a common omission on coins of the period . 27
56. A Penny of Edred; his name reads EADRED. REX. . . . 27

The reverses of all the above coins, from No. 28, have the moneyers' name, with the exception of the one of Ælfred; and nearly all have also the name of the place of mintage, more or less abbreviated.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE VI.*

COINS OF THE SAXON AND DANISH SOLE MONARCH.

57. Is a Penny of Edwy (A.D. 955); his name reads EADVIG. REX. . 28
No. 57½ is the reverse of another of his coins.
58. ——— Edgar (A.D. 958); his name reads EADGAR. REX. . 28
59. ——— Edward the Martyr (A.D. 675); his name reads EADPEARD. REX. AGL. having the Saxon P for W, and AGL. for Angliae, or Anglorum 28
60. ——— Æthelred (A.D. 978); his name reads EDELRED. REX. ANG. (for Anglorum) 28
61. ——— Canute (A.D. 1016); his name reads CNVT. REX. AN. (for Anglorum). 29
62. ——— Harold I. (A.D. 1035); his name reads HAROLD. REX. 29
63. ——— Hardicanute (A.D. 1040); his name reads HARDACNVT. REX. 30
64. ——— Edward the Confessor (A.D. 1042); his name reads EADPRD. REX. ANGLO. for Anglorum; the Saxon P is used instead of W, and an A left out 30
65. ——— Edward the Confessor; another type, in which the A is not left out, and two characters precede REX. 30
66. ——— Harold II.; his name reads HAROLD. REX. ANGL. for Anglorum; the reverses of all his coins have the word PAX (peace) 31

* All the coins in this plate are pennies, and all the reverses have the moneyer's name and the place of mintage.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE VII.

THE ANGLO-NORMAN KINGS FROM WILLIAM I. TO HENRY III.

(page 32.)

No. Page

67. Silver Penny of William the Conqueror (A.D. 1066); his name reads PILLEMIIS REX; the Saxon P being used for W, and II for V . 34
68. ——— William Rufus (A.D. 1087); his name reads PILLEM. REX; the Saxon P being again used for W 34
69. ——— Henry I. (A.D. 1100); his name appears to read HNRE. REX. 34
70. ——— Stephen (A.D. 1135); his name reads STIEFN; his coins are generally, but not always, without REX. 35
71. ——— Henry, Bishop of Winchester; his name reads HENRICVS. EP. C. (for EP.isCopus) 36
72. ——— Robert, Duke of Gloucester; his name reads RODBERTVS. ST. T.; the meaning of the three last letters is unknown 36
73. ——— Eustace, son of Stephen; his name reads EVSTACIVS 36
74. ——— Eustace, another type, with EISTAOhIVS . . . 36
75. ——— Stephen and Matilda; the legend STIEFNE. R. . . 36
76. ——— Henry II. (A.D. 1154); his name reads HENRI. REX. ANG. 37
77. ——— Henry III. (A.D. 1216); his name reads HENRICVS. REX. AN. 38
78. A Gold Penny of Henry III.; his name reads HENRIC. REX. III. 38

The reverses on the above coins have the moneyers' names and the places of mintage, and all are silver pennies except the last.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE VIII.

COINS OF EDWARD I. II. AND III. (page 40.)

79. A supposed Groat of Edward I.; his name and titles read EDWARDVS D(e)I GRA(tia) REX ANGL(iæ), (by the grace of God King of England); the reverse has D(omi)N(u)S. HIB(er)N(iæ). E(t) DVX AQV(i)T(aniæ), (Lord of Ireland and Duke of Aquitaine); also CIVITAS LONDONIÆ (city of London) 41
80. Is a Silver Penny of Edward I. (A.D. 1272), with similar inscriptions differently abbreviated 42

No. Page

81. Is another type of a Penny of Edward I. 42
82. Is a Farthing of Edward I., name abbreviated, and Civitas London. on the reverse; others have "Londoniensis" 42
At page 43, in the first edition, this farthing is alluded to by mistake as one of Edward III.
83. Is a Penny of Edward II. (A.D. 1307), with EDWAR. R. ANG. DNS. HYB. (For abbreviations see No. 79.) 42
84. Is a Groat of Edward III., with the same title as on the Groat of Edward I., but differently abbreviated, and with the addition of FRANC(iæ). The reverse has the motto, "POSVI. DEVM. ADIVTOREM. MEVM." (I have made God my helper) . . 43
85. Is a Penny of Edward III., with name and titles similar to the above, and CIVITAS. EBORACI (city of York) on the reverse . . 44
86. A Gold Quarter Florin of Edward III., reads on the obverse EDW(a)R (dus) R(ex) ANGL(iæ) Z (for et) FRANC(iæ) D(ominus) HIB (erniæ). The reverse has EXALTABITVR. IN. GLORIA. (He shall be exalted in glory) 44
87. Is a Gold Noble of Edward III., reads on the obverse EDWARD. DEI. GRA. REX. ANGL. Z. FRANC. D. HYB. (for abbreviations see No. 79.) The reverse has IHE. (for Jesus) AVTEM. TRANSIENS. P(er) MEDIVM. ILLORVM. IBA(t), ("Jesus passing through the midst of them went away") 46
88. Is a Quarter Noble of Edward III.; the legend the same as the quarter florin 46

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE IX.

COINS FROM RICHARD II. TO RICHARD III. (page 48.)

89. Is a Groat of Richard II. (A.D. 1377); the obverse reads RICARD(us). D(e)I. GRA(tia). REX. ANGL(iæ) Z (for et) FRANC(iæ); the reverse has POSVI. DEVM. ADIVTOREM. MEV (m), (I have made God my help); and CIVITAS LONDON(iæ), (city of London) 48
90. Is a Half Noble of Richard II. 48
91. Is a Groat of Henry IV. 48
92. Is a Quarter Noble of Henry IV.; the legend reads HENRICVS. D(e)I. GRA(tia) R(ex) ANGL(iæ) Z(for et) FRANC(iæ) . . . 48
93. Is a Groat of Henry V. or VI.; legend like that of Henry IV. . . 49
94. Is a Half Noble of Henry V. or VI., with Henric(us), and the titles as on the quarter noble above (No. 92) 49

No. Page

95. Is a Groat of Edward IV., with EDWARD. DI. GRA. &c. 50

96. Is an Angel of Edward IV., having the same titles as the quarter noble above. The reverse has PER. CRVCEM TVA(m) SALVA NOS. X.RE. (for Christe) REDEMPT(or), (By thy cross save us, O Christ our Redeemer) 51

97. Is a Groat of Richard III., the titles the same as on the Groat of Richard II. (No. 81) 51

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE X.

THE COINS OF HENRY VII. (page 52.)

98. Is a Groat of Henry VII. of the first character, with a crown as in the previous reigns 52

99. Is a Penny of the same; on the reverse is Civitas Eboraci (city of York) 52

100. Is a Groat of Henry VII., of the second character, with the arched crown 53

101. Is a Penny of the same; on the reverse, Civitas Cantor. (city of Canterbury) 53

102. Is a Shilling of Henry VII., the first English Shilling; the obverse, HENRIC(us) SEPTIM(us) D(e)I. GRA(tia) REX. ANGL(iæ) Z (for et) FR(anciæ), (Henry the Seventh, by the Grace of God, King of England and France); on the reverse the old motto POSVI. DEVM. ADIVTORE. MEVM. (see No. 84.) 55

103. Is a Half Groat of the same coinage 55

104. Is a Durham Penny of the same period 55

105. Is the Gold Sovereign of the reign; the first coin bearing that name; the legend is HENRICVS. DEI. GRACIA REX. ANGLIE. ET FRANCIE. D(omi)N(u)S. IBAR(niæ). 55

106. Is the reverse of another type of the Gold Sovereign of this reign; it has the old motto IHESUS. AVTEM. TRANSIENS. PER. MEDIVM. ILLORVM. IBAT. (Jesus passing through the midst of them went away) 56

107. Is the reverse of a Half Sovereign, with the arms of France only . 56

108. Is a Half Angel, having HENRIC(us) D(e)I. GRA(tia) REX. ANGL(iæ); and on the reverse, O. CRVX. AVE SPES. VNICA. (Hail, O cross, the only hope) 56

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XI.

THE COINS OF HENRY VIII. (page 56.)

No. Page

109. Is a Gold Crown; the titles without Ireland; and on the reverse HENRIC(us) VIII. RVTILANS ROSA. SINE. SPIN(a), (the shining rose without a thorn) 58

110. Is a York Half Groat, with HENRIC ..... on the obverse, and on the reverse, CIVITAS. EBORACI. (city of York), with the cardinal's hat and the initials of Wolsey 58

111. Is a Silver Farthing; the obverse having RVTILANS ROSA. (the shining rose); on the reverse HEN. —. AG. 58

112. The Gold Sovereign of this reign; the inscription the same as the testoon; on the reverse the old motto, IHESVS., &c., &c. 58

113. Is the George Noble; on the reverse the titles run HENRIC(us) D(ei) G(ratia) R(ex) A(n)GL(iæ) Z (for et) FRANC(iæ) D(omi)N(u)S. HIBER(niæ) 58

14. Is an Angel; the titles on the obverse omit Ireland; on the reverse, "PER CRVCE(m) TVA(m) SALVA. (for Salve) NOS. XRE. REDE"(emptor). (See No. 96) 58

115. Is a Gold Half-crown, with mottoes similar to those of the Crown . 58

116. Is a Testoon, or Shilling, having on the obverse HENRIC(us) VIII. D(ei) G(ratia) ANG(liæ) FRA(nciæ) Z (for et) IB(erniæ) REX. (Henry VIII., by the Grace of God, King of England, France, and Ireland) 58

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XII.

THE COINS OF EDWARD VI. (page 60.)

117. Is a Shilling, with Legend EDWARD(vs). VI. D(ei) G(ratia) A(n)GL(iæ), FRA(nciæ), Z (for et) HIB(erniæ) REX, (Edward VI., by the Grace of God, King of England, France, and Ireland), on the reverse; the obverse has TIMOR. DOMINI. FONS. VITE. (the fear of the Lord is the fountain of life), and the date, 1549 . . 63

118. Is a Half-crown, the titles as on the Shillings, and on the reverse the old motto, POSVI DEV(m) ADIVTORE(m) MEV(m), (I have made God my help) 63

119. Is a Sixpence of another coinage 63

120. Is a Penny, with the motto, Rosa, sine spina, (the rose without a thorn) 64

No. Page

121. Is a Treble Sovereign; the title as above; and on the reverse the old motto, IH(esu)S. AUTEM. TRANSIENS. PER. MEDI(um) ILLOR(um) IBAT, (Jesus passing through the midst of them went away) 64

122. Is a Half-sovereign, with the usual title, and on the reverse the motto IHS. &c. 65

123. Is a Gold Crown (with the rose and crown), and the motto, SCVTVM. FIDEI. PROTEGET. EVM. (the shield of faith protects him) . 65

124. Is a pattern for a 6 Angel Piece (never issued) 65

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XIII.

THE COINS OF MARY, AND PHILIP AND MARY (page 65.)

125. Is a Groat; the motto of the obverse, MARIA D(ei) G(ratia) ANG(liæ) FRA(nciæ) Z (for et) HIB(erniæ) REGI(na), (Mary, by the Grace of God, Queen of England, Ireland, and France); the reverse has the motto, VERITAS. TEMPORIS. FILIA, (Truth, the daughter of Time) 66

126. Is a Shilling, after her marriage, with the head of Mary on one side, and Philip on the other; the titles of Mary read, MARIA. D(ei) G(ratia) R(egina) ANG(liæ) FR(anciæ) NEAP(olis) PR(inceps) Hisp(aniæ), (Mary, by the Grace of God, Queen of England, France, Naples, and Princess of Spain); the titles of Philip read the same 66

127. Another Shilling, with motto, PHILIP. ET. MARIA., &c., &c. . 66

128. Is a Double Rial of Mary, with the motto, MARIA D. G., &c., and on the reverse, A. D(omi)NO. FACTV(m). EST. ISTV(d), Z. EST. MIRA(bile) IN. OCUL(lis). N(ost)RIS (It is the work of the Lord, and wonderful in our eyes) 67

129. Is a single Rial of Mary; the motto of the old Noble on the reverse . 67

130. Is a Half-angel of Philip and Mary 67

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XIV.

THE COINS OF ELIZABETH (page 68.)

131. Is a Shilling, having ELIZABETH. D(ei) G(ratia) ANG(liæ) FR(anciæ) ET HIB(erniæ) REGINA, (Elizabeth, by the Grace of

No. Page

God, Queen of England, France, and Ireland); on the reverse the old motto, POSVI. DEV(m) ADIVTOREM MEV(m), (I have made God my help) 73

132. Is a Three-halfpenny Piece, with E(lizabeth) D(ei) G(ratia), and ROSA SINE SPINA, (the rose without a thorn); on the reverse CIVITAS LONDON. (City of London) 73

133. Is a Three-farthing Piece; same legends 73

134. Is a Penny; same legends 73

135. Is a Halfpenny 73

136. Is a milled Shilling of 1575, with mottoes as No. 131 73

137. Is a Crown, with the same mottoes as shilling 73

138. Is a Half Sovereign, of the new type 74

139. Is a Rial (or Half-sovereign), with the ship device 74

140. Is a gold Half-crown 74

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XV.

THE COINS OF JAMES I. (p. 74.)

141. Is a Half-crown; the legend is IACOBVS D(ei) G(ratia) MAG(næ) BRI(tanniæ) FRA(nciæ) ET. HIB(erniæ) REX. (James, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland) . . 76

142. Is a Sixpence, with same titles as No. 141; and on the reverse, QVÆ. DEVS. CONIVNXIT NEMO SEPARET. (whom God has joined together let no one put asunder) 76

143. Is a Half-groat, with I.D.G. and rosa sine spina (the rose without a thorn); and on the reverse, TVEATVR. VNITA. DEVS, (God upholds the united) 76

144. A Penny; mottoes the same as 143 76

145. A Halfpenny 76

146. Is the Sceptered Unit of xx shillings 78

147. Is a Rial of xxx shillings 78

148. Is a Gold Crown, of four shillings, with TVEATVR, &c. on the reverse 78

149. The obverse of a Gold Unit of xx shillings (called a laurel); the reverse has for motto FACIAM EOS IN GENTEM VNAM (I will make them one people) 78

150. Is the reverse of a xv Shilling Piece; on the side not shown it has the motto, A.D(omi)NO. FACTVM. EST. ISTVD. ET. EST. MIRABI(le). (It is the Lord's doing, and is wonderful) . . 78

151. Is the reverse of an Angel, with the motto of the reverse of 150 . . 78

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XVI.

THE COINS OF CHARLES I. (page 79.)

No. Page

152. Is a Half-crown, with CAROLVS D(ei) G(ratia) MAG(næ) BRI (tanniæ) FRA(nciæ) ET. HIB(erniæ) REX. (Charles, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland); and on the reverse, CHRISTO. AVSPICE. REGNO. (I reign under the auspices of Christ) 83

153. Is a Shilling; mottoes nearly as 152 83

154. Is the reverse of a Sixpence 83

155. Is the reverse of a later Half-crown 83

156. Is a Threepence 83

157. Is a Halfpenny 84

158. Is a Gold Unit; the reverse has FLOREANT CONCORDIA REGNA, (kingdoms flourish by concord) 85

159. Is the Gold 20 Shillings, of the pattern called the "exurgat" money; the motto is EXVRGAT. DEVS. DISSIPENTVR INIMICI, (let God arise, let his enemies be scattered); and on the scroll in the centre is a motto relating to his declaration to support the Protestant religion, the laws and liberties of his subjects, and the privileges of Parliament. It should read RELIG(io) PROT(estans) LEG(es) ANG(liæ) LIBER(tates) PAR(liamenti) 85

160. Is a Gold Crown; or ½ unit; having on the reverse, the motto CVLTORES. SVI. DEVS. PROTEGIT. (God protects his worshippers) 84

161. Is another Gold ¼ Unit 84

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XVII.

COINS OF CHARLES I. (page 79.)

162. Is an Oxford 20 Shilling Piece, with titles of obverse as 152; the reverse as 159 84

163. Is the Oxford Crown, with the view of the city beneath the horse . 84

164. Is a Shilling of the "exurgat" money; mottoes as 162 84

165. Is a Penny of the "exurgat" money 84

166. Is a Half-crown, coined during the siege of Newark Castle, commonly called a "siege piece" 84

167. Is a Shilling "siege piece" of Pontefract Castle, with the motto DVM. SPIRO. SPERO (whilst I breathe I hope) 84

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XVIII.

COINS OF THE COMMONWEALTH (page 86).

No.		Page
168.	Is a Half-crown of the Commonwealth	88
169.	Is a Penny of the Commonwealth	88
170.	Is a Halfpenny of the Commonwealth	88
171.	Is a Half-crown of Cromwell (perhaps never issued), with the head of the Protector, and OLIVAR. D(ei) G(ratia) R(ei) P(ublicæ) ANG(liæ) SCO(tiæ) ET HIB(erniæ) PRO(tector), (Oliver by the Grace of God Protector of the republic of England, Scotland, and Ireland); on the reverse is the motto PAX. QVÆRITVR. BELLO. (peace is to be sought by war)	88
172.	Is a Pattern Half-crown of the Commonwealth, not issued	88
173.	Is the reverse of the Twenty-shilling Piece of the Commonwealth, a thin hammered piece	88
174.	Is a Twenty-shilling Piece of the Protector, prepared but not issued; with the same inscription as the half-crown: it is a thick piece, executed by mill and screw	88
175. 176. 177. 178.	Patterns of Copper Farthings, prepared but not issued	89

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XIX.

COINS OF CHARLES II. (page 89.)

179.	Is a Sixpence; the name and titles on the obverse read CAROLVS II. D(ei) G(ratia) MAG(næ) BRI(tanniæ) FRA(nciæ) ET. HIB(erniæ) REX.; on the reverse the motto of his father, CHRISTO AVSPICE. REGNO. (I reign under the auspices of Christ)	92
180.	Is the Silver Penny of the early part of the reign	92
181.	Is another Sixpence	92
182, 183, 184, and 185,	are the Penny, Twopence, Threepence, and Groat of the later part of the reign	92
186.	Is the celebrated Petition Crown of Simon	92
187.	Is a Gold Forty-shilling Piece	93
188.	Is a Twenty-shilling Piece, now first called a Guinea	93

No. Page

189. Is the first Copper Halfpenny, motto, CAROLVS. A. CAROLO. (Charles from Charles); or if the Halfpenny was called "a Carolus," we may read "a Carolus from Charles." The Farthing of the same coinage has the motto "famulus nummorum" on the edge (the servant of money); as "famulus sacrorum" (the parish clerk, or servant of clergymen).

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XX.

COINS OF JAMES II., AND WILIAM AND MARY (pages 96 & 97.)

189. Is a Crown of James II. 96
190. Is the reverse of a Half-crown, with the inscription, "MAG(næ) BR(itanniæ) FRA(nciæ) ET. HIB(erniæ) REX. 1686," (King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland); the "JACOBVS. DEI. GRATIA" (James by the Grace of God) being on the obverse, as on the Crown 96
191. Is a Sixpence of the same date 96
192. Is a Twopenny Piece 96
192½. Is a Penny 96
194. Is a Five Pound Piece 96
195. Is the reverse of a Forty Shilling Piece 96
196. Is a Tin Halfpenny, with a plug of Copper 96
197. Is a Crown of William and Mary, the inscription, "GVLIELMVS. ET. MARIA. DEI. GRATIA," (William and Mary, by the Grace of God); and on the reverse, "MAG(næ) BR(itanniæ) FR(anciæ) ET. HI(berniæ) REX. ET. REGINA." (King and Queen of Great Britain, France, and Ireland) 99
198. Is a Shilling of William and Mary 99
199 & 200. The reverses of Fourpence and Twopence of William and Mary . 99

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XXI.

COINS OF WILLIAM AND MARY, AND WILLIAM III. (pages 97 & 98.)

201. Is a Crown of William III., with GVLIELMVS. III. DEI. GRA(tia), (WILLIAM III., by the Grace of God); and on the reverse MAG(næ) BR(itanniæ), FRA(nciæ) ET. HIB(erniæ) REX. (King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland), 1696 99

No. Page
202. Is a Sixpence 99
202½. A Penny 99
203. A Gold Five Pound Piece of William III. 99
204. Is a Two Pound Piece of William and Mary; mottoes as 197 . . 99
205. Is a Two Pound Piece of William III. 99
206. Is a Tin Farthing of William and Mary, with copper plug . . 100
207. Is a Halfpenny of William III., with GVLIELMUS TERTIVS, (William the Third) 100
208. Is the reverse of a Farthing of William III. 100

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XXII.

COINS OF ANNE AND GEORGE I. (pages 101 & 104.)

209. A Half-crown of Anne 101
210. A Shilling of Anne 101
210½. Reverse of another Shilling of Anne 101
211. A Penny of Anne 102
212. A Guinea of Anne 103
213. A pattern Copper Halfpenny of Anne 103
214. A pattern Copper Farthing of Anne 103
215. A Half-crown of George I.; the titles on the obverse, GEORGIVS D(ei) G(ratia) M(agnæ) B(ritanniæ) FR(anciæ) ET. HIB(erniæ) REX., (George by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland,) and F(idei) D(efensor), (Defender of the Faith) . 105
216. A reverse, with BRVN(svicencis) ET. L(unenbergensis) DVX. S(acri) R(omani) I(mperii) A(rchi) TH(esaurarius) ET. EL(ector), (Duke of Brunswick and Lunenberg, and Arch-treasurer and Elector of the Holy Roman Empire) 105
217. A Guinea of George I. 105
218. A Quarter-guinea of George I. 105
219. A Copper Farthing of George I. (E has been accidentally omitted by the engraver of this plate.) 105

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XXIII.

COINS OF GEORGE II. AND III. (pages 105 & 108.)

220. Is a Half-crown of George II.; the motto is Georgius II., Dei Gratia, (George II., by the Grace of God) 106

No.		Page
220½.	Is the reverse of a Half-crown, with M(agnæ) B(ritanniæ) (Franciæ) ET. H(iberniæ) REX. F(idei) D(efensor) B(runsvigensis) ET. L(unenbergensis) Dux S(acri) R(omani) I(mperii) A(rchi) T(he-saurarius) ET. E(lector) (see No. 216)	106
221.	A Threepence of George II.*	106
222.	A Two Pound Piece of George II.	107
223.	A Halfpenny of George II.	107
224.	A Shilling of George III.; date 1786	113
224½	The reverse of a Shilling of George III. of 1763; the titles on obverse and reverse nearly the same as those of George II., interpreted at No. 220 and 220½	113
225.	The obverse of the Northumberland Shilling of 1763	113
226.	The Threepence of George III., with Arabic numerals, called the wire money	110 & 113
226.(bis)	The reverse of a Guinea of George III.	113
227.	The large Copper Penny of George III.	116
227½.	A Copper Halfpenny of George III.	116

* At page 106, the specimen described as a penny piece of the Maundy money should be a three-penny piece.

Erratum.—Page 113, No. 221 is described by a mistake as a threepenny piece of the first Maundy money of George (which it much resembles); but it is a piece of the reign of George II., as the date 1739 will show.

VIZETELLY BROTHERS AND CO. PRINTERS AND ENGRAVERS, PETERBOROUGH COURT, FLEET STREET.

MAY 4 - 1943

